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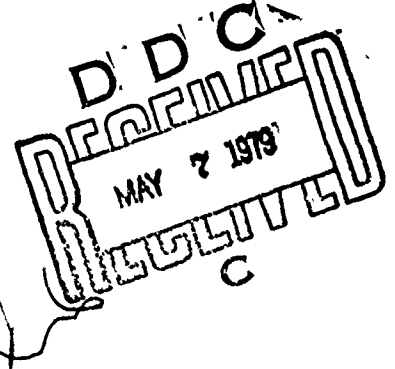
A Description of Combat Rifle Squads on the Korean MLR During the Winter of 1952-53

by

Rodney A. Clark and Martha B. Myers

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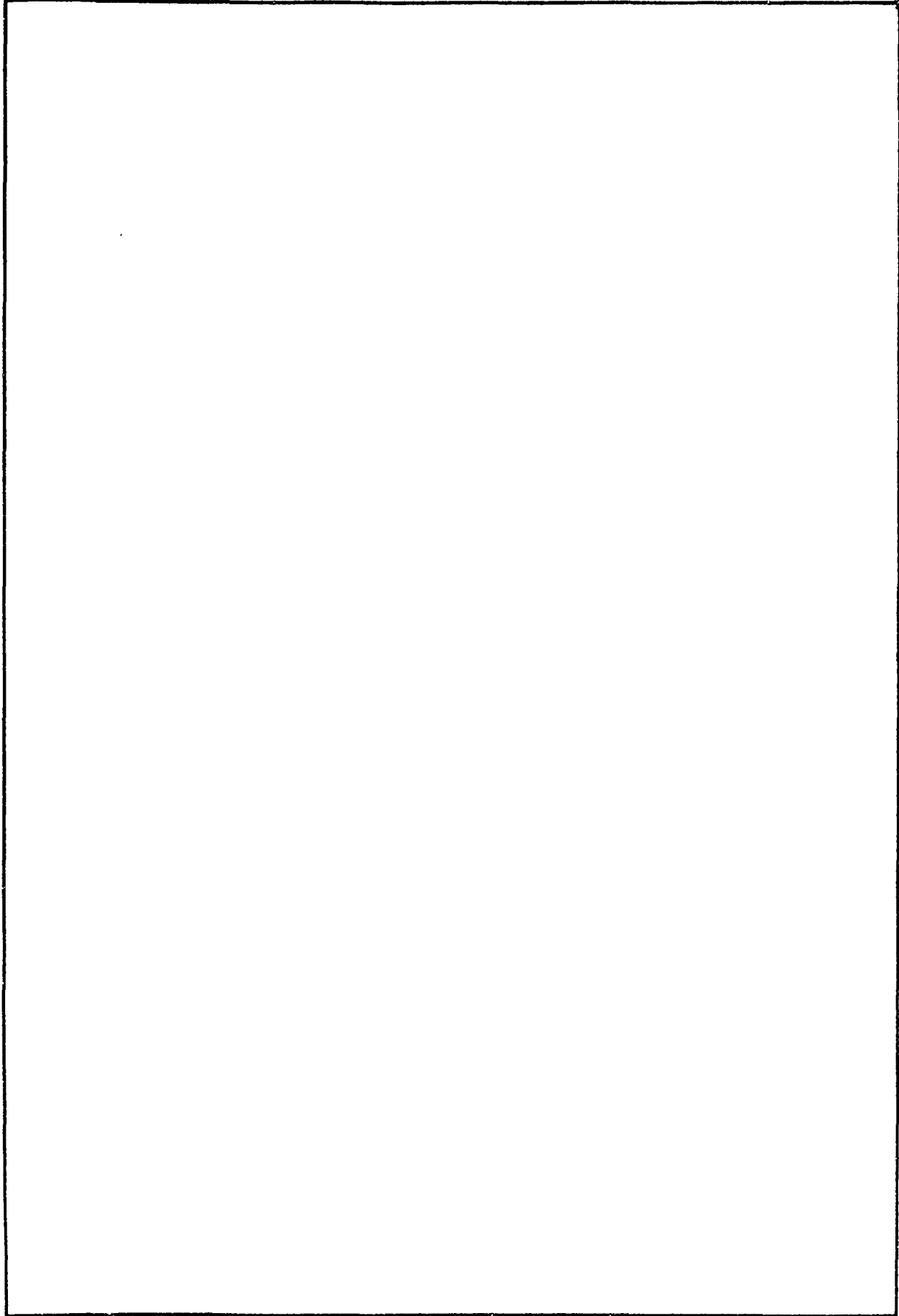
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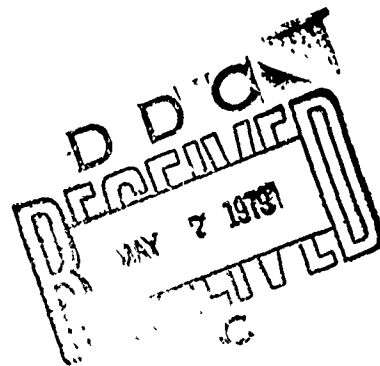
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A DESCRIPTION OF COMBAT RIFLE SQUADS

ON THE KOREAN MLR
DURING THE WINTER OF 1952-53

by

Rodney A. Clark and Martha B. Myers



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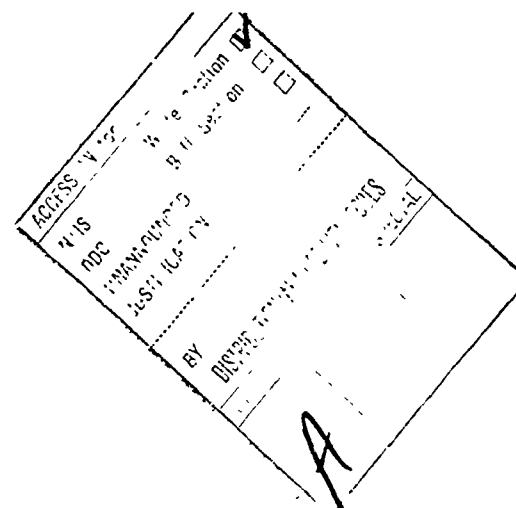
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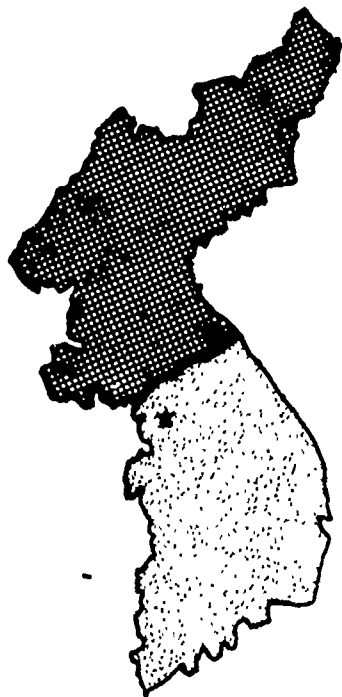


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INTRODUCTION

This report is a graphic description of riflemen in 78 rifle squads on the Korean front lines during the winter of 1952-53. Future reports will analyze the factors involved in the interaction of squad members as individuals and the squad's performance as a group; the present report simply presents data on riflemen's civilian backgrounds, training, and attitudes. Descriptive attributes of squads and squad members are also presented.

A research team from Army Field Forces Human Research Unit No. 2 conducted a study of squad effectiveness in the 40th Infantry Division from 24 December 1952 to 7 February 1953. The 40th Division occupied positions from the Mundung-Ni River, across Heart-break Ridge, holding Sandbag Castle and the rim of the Punch Bowl. While the troops were in these positions on the Main Line of Resistance (M.L.R.), the researchers visited one platoon in each rifle company in the 160th Regiment (the only regiment to face both the North Koreans and the Chinese), the 224th Infantry Regiment, and the 5th Regimental Combat Team. From these regiments a sample of more than 80 rifle squads was interviewed and given questionnaires and tests; this study is based upon 78 squads for which data were reasonably complete. Information was obtained from all English-speaking squad members who were present at the time of the researchers' visit. This permitted obtaining test-questionnaire data from 386 riflemen and recording lengthy interviews with 350 of these men.

The graphs in the succeeding pages are based upon the data obtained from the test-questionnaires and interviews. The first group of charts deals with characteristics of the civilian backgrounds of squad members and is based upon information obtained in the questionnaires. The second group of graphs is concerned with descriptive attributes of squads and squad members; the first four figures in this section are based upon information obtained from the recorded interviews, and the remaining 10 figures reflect the data obtained in the questionnaires. The third section, on training, includes three charts based upon questionnaire data and a fourth chart based upon scores received on a written infantry weapons test. In the fourth section of the report, dealing with riflemen's attitudes, the first two figures are based upon attitude questionnaires, and the remaining nine drawings reflect material obtained in the recorded interviews. The final section of the report is mainly composed of the summary statements which appear under each chart throughout the report.





AGE OF SQUAD MEMBERS

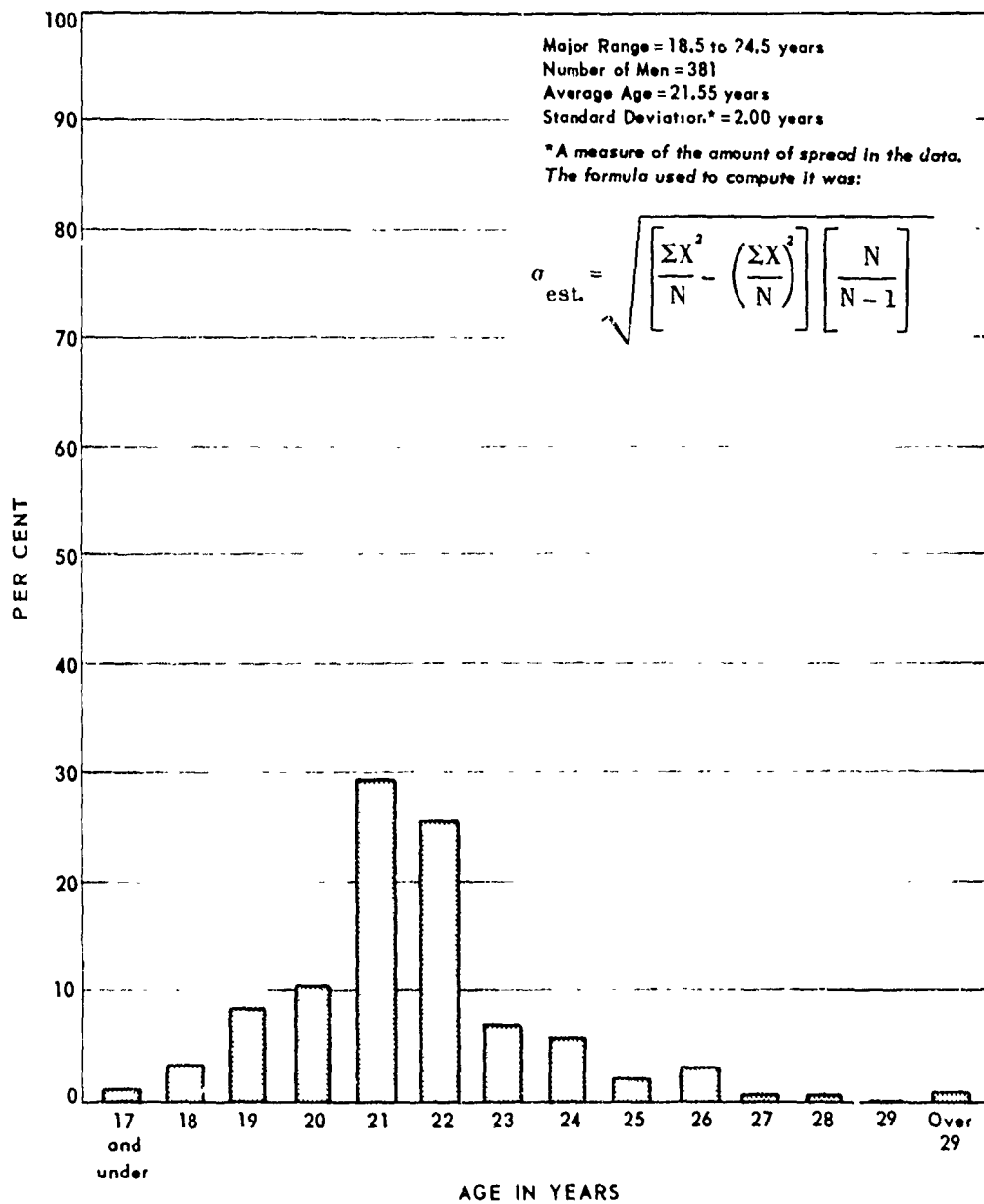


Figure 1

Half of the riflemen on the front line are 21 or 22 years old.

EDUCATION OF SQUAD MEMBERS

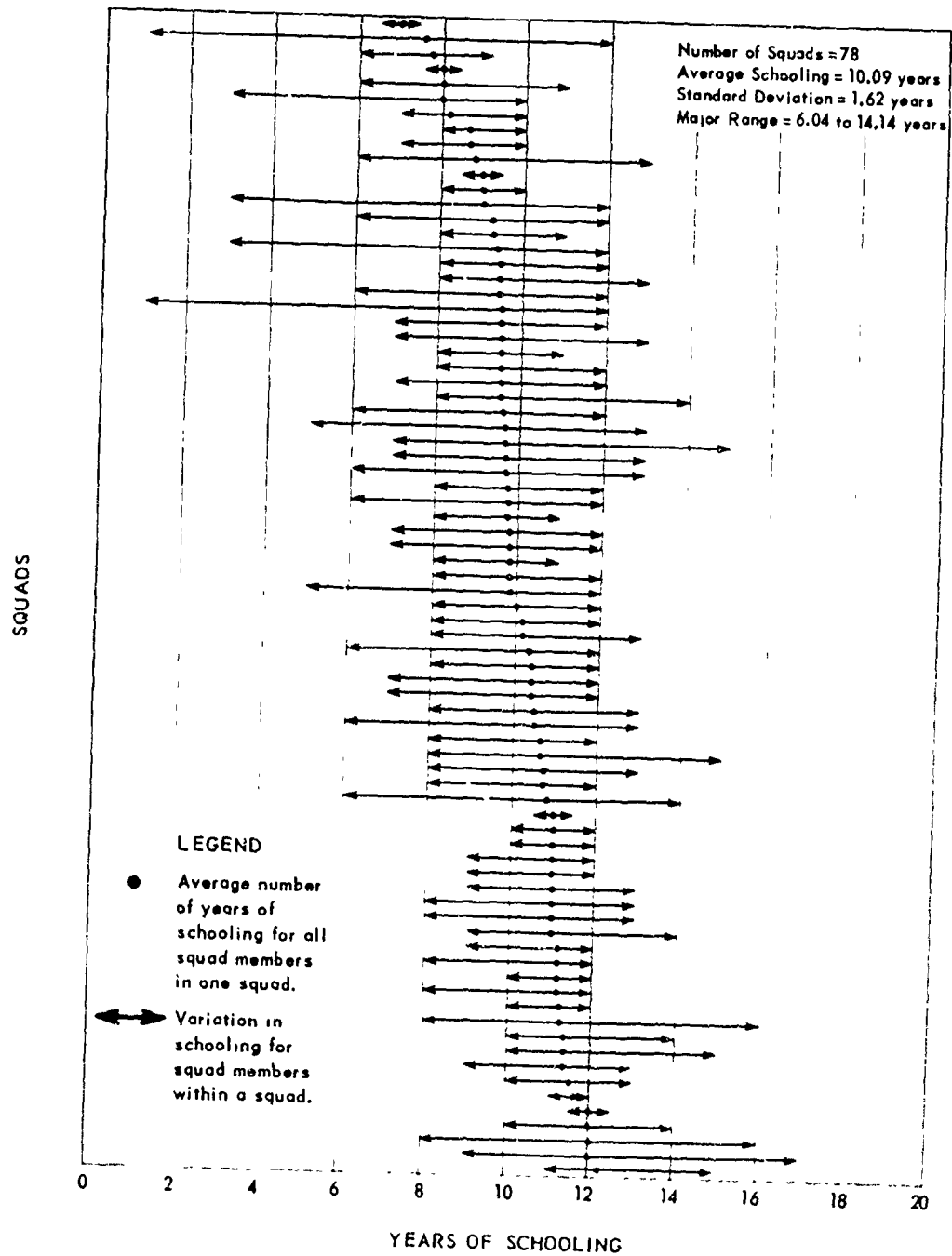


Figure 2

The educational backgrounds of front-line riflemen are relatively low. In many squads, the variation in background within the squad is large.

HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED BY SQUAD MEMBERS

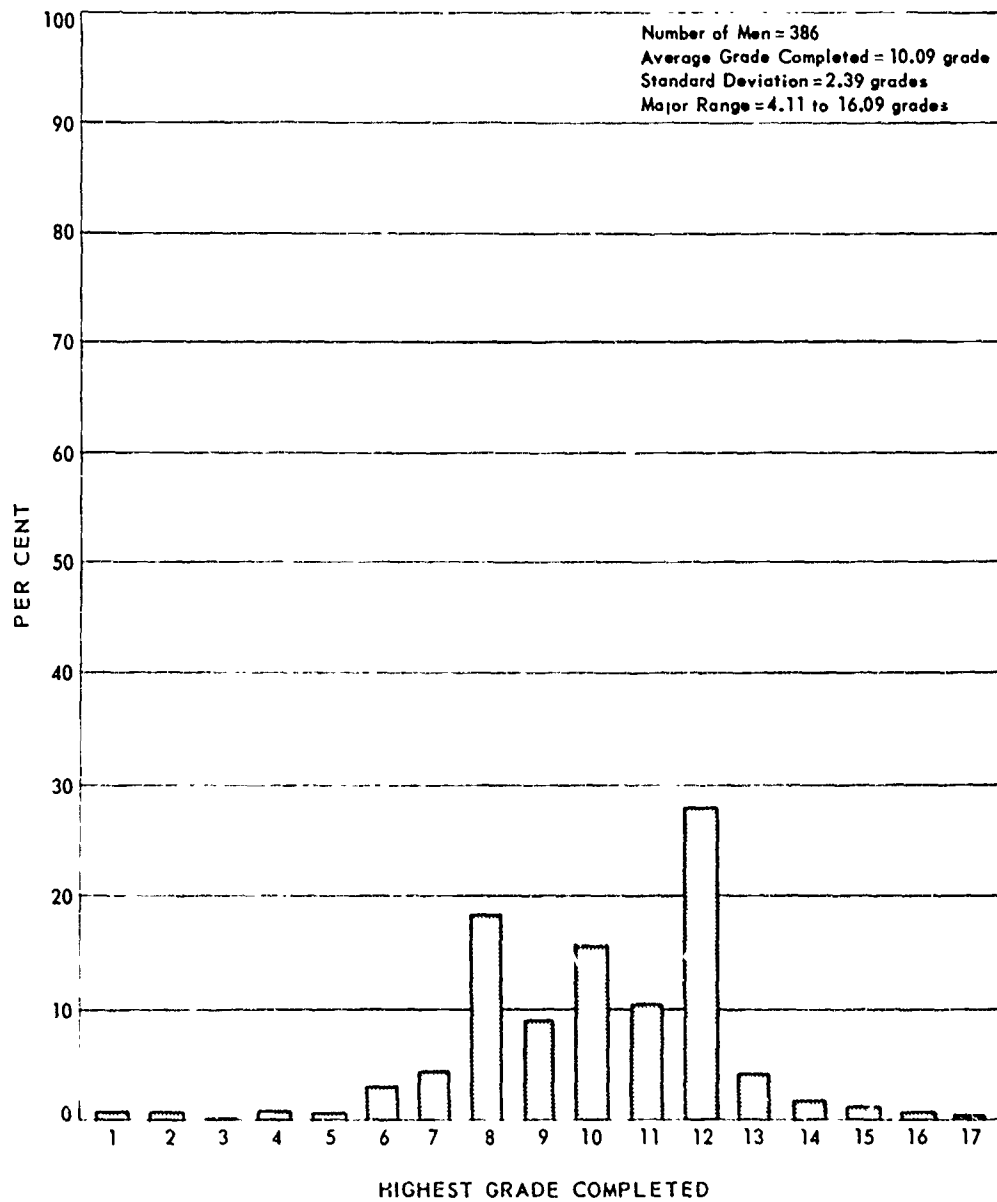


Figure 3

More than 60 per cent of the front-line riflemen did not complete high school.

OCCUPATION BEFORE ENTERING THE ARMY

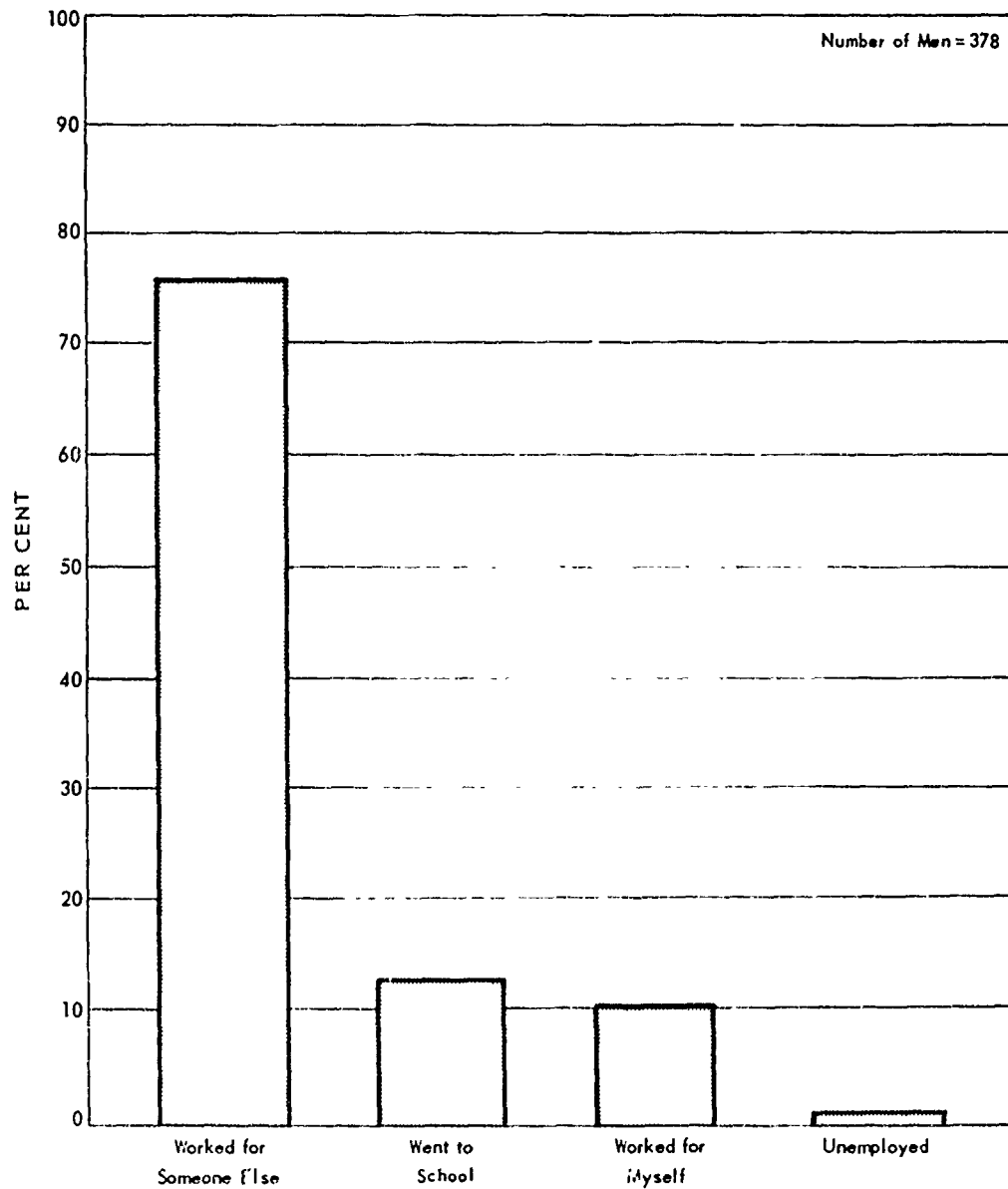


Figure 4

Most of the riflemen have had civilian experience working for others.

PARENTS BORN IN U.S.A.

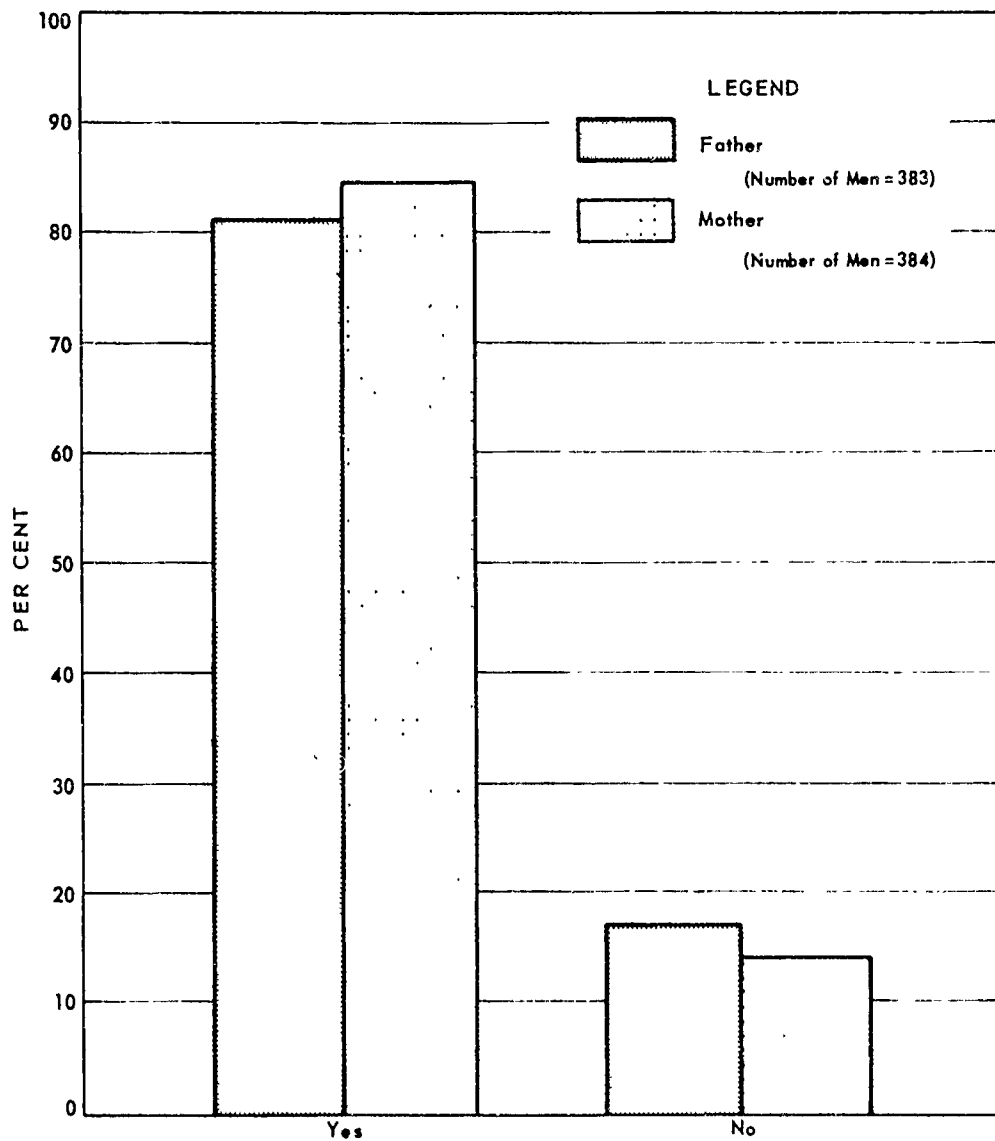


Figure 5

Almost one-fifth of the squad members serving on the front line are first-generation Americans.

ANCESTRY OF SQUAD MEMBERS

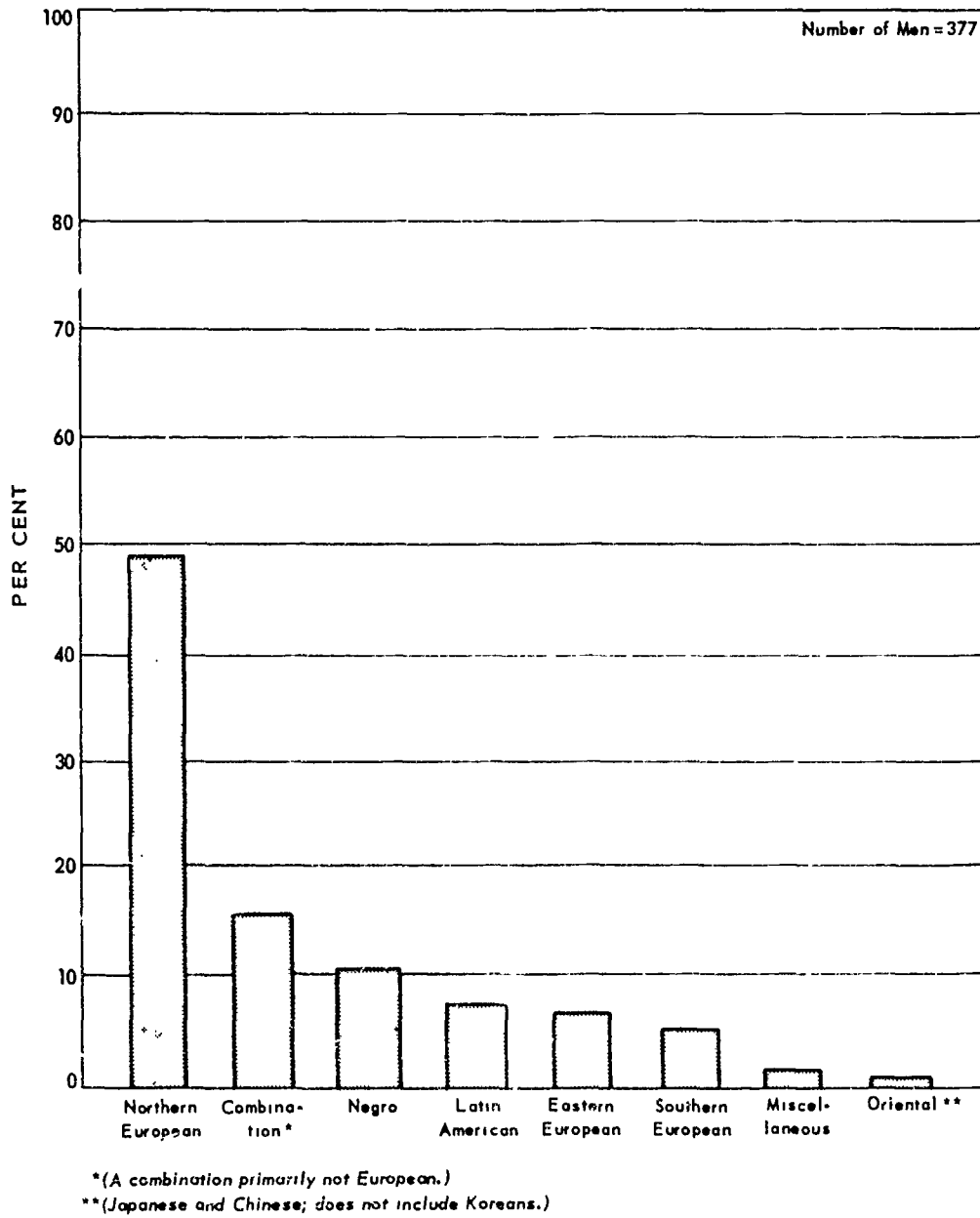


Figure 6

Even though half of the riflemen on the front line have Northern European ancestry, there are six minority groups and minority combinations. Each of these groups has its own immediate and potential problems of integration.

PERCENTAGE OF SQUAD FROM NON-EUROPEAN MINORITY GROUPS

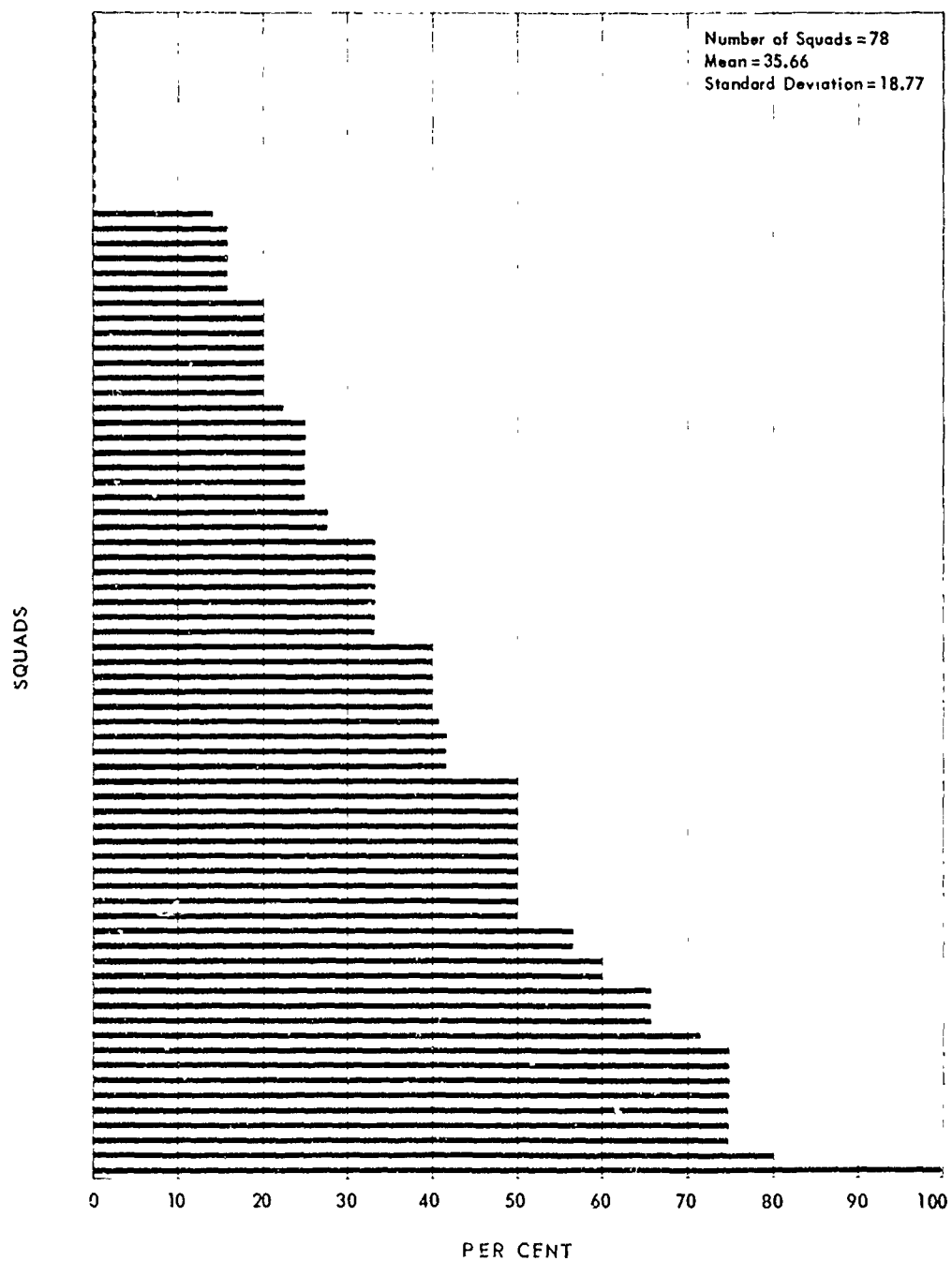


Figure 7

The proportion of minority group members in a squad varies markedly from squad to squad. What distribution and proportion is best for "integration" and good interpersonal squad relations is open for speculation and study.

NEGRO SQUAD MEMBERS

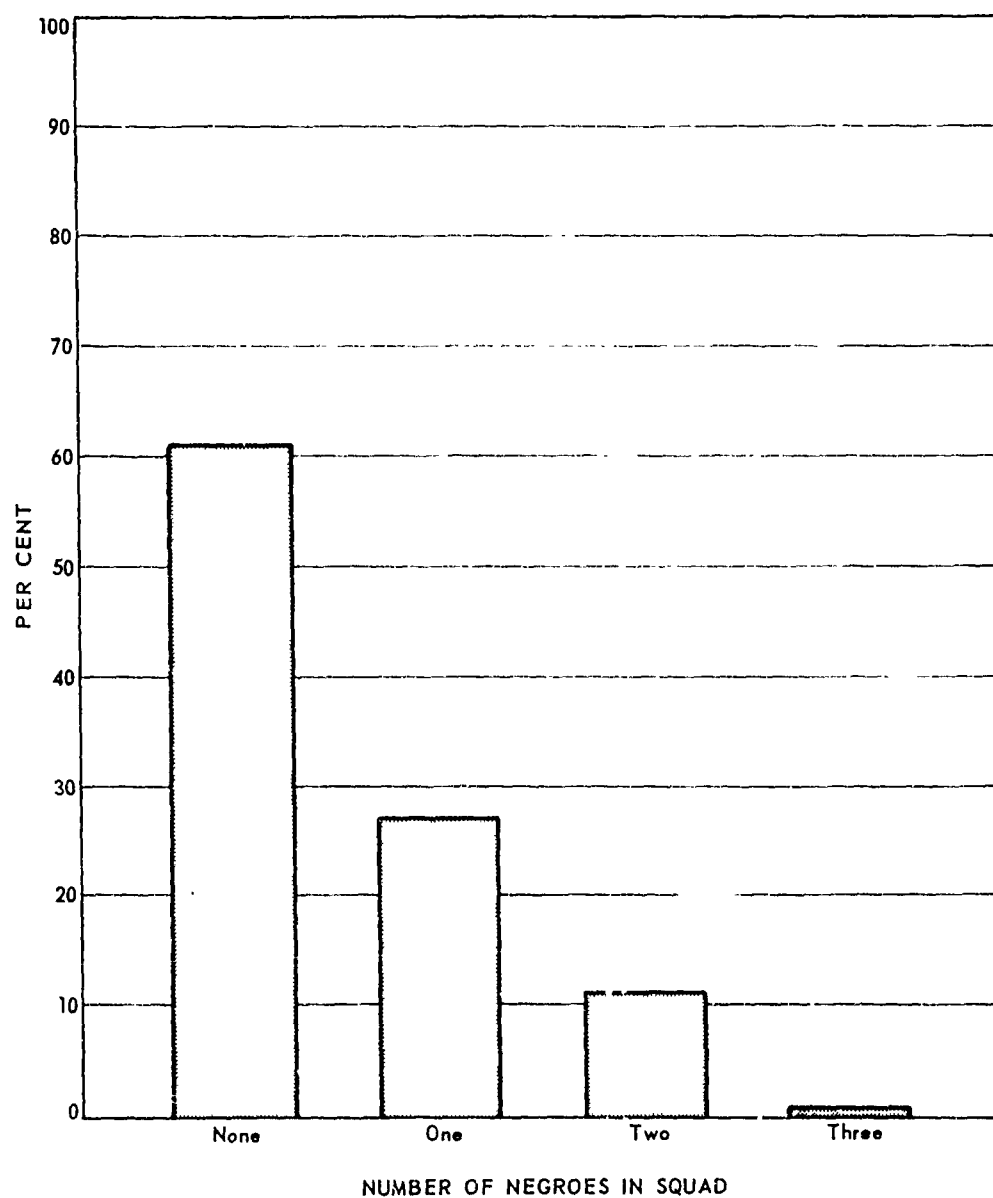


Figure 8

The Negro population is not evenly distributed among front-line squads.

PARENT'S OCCUPATION

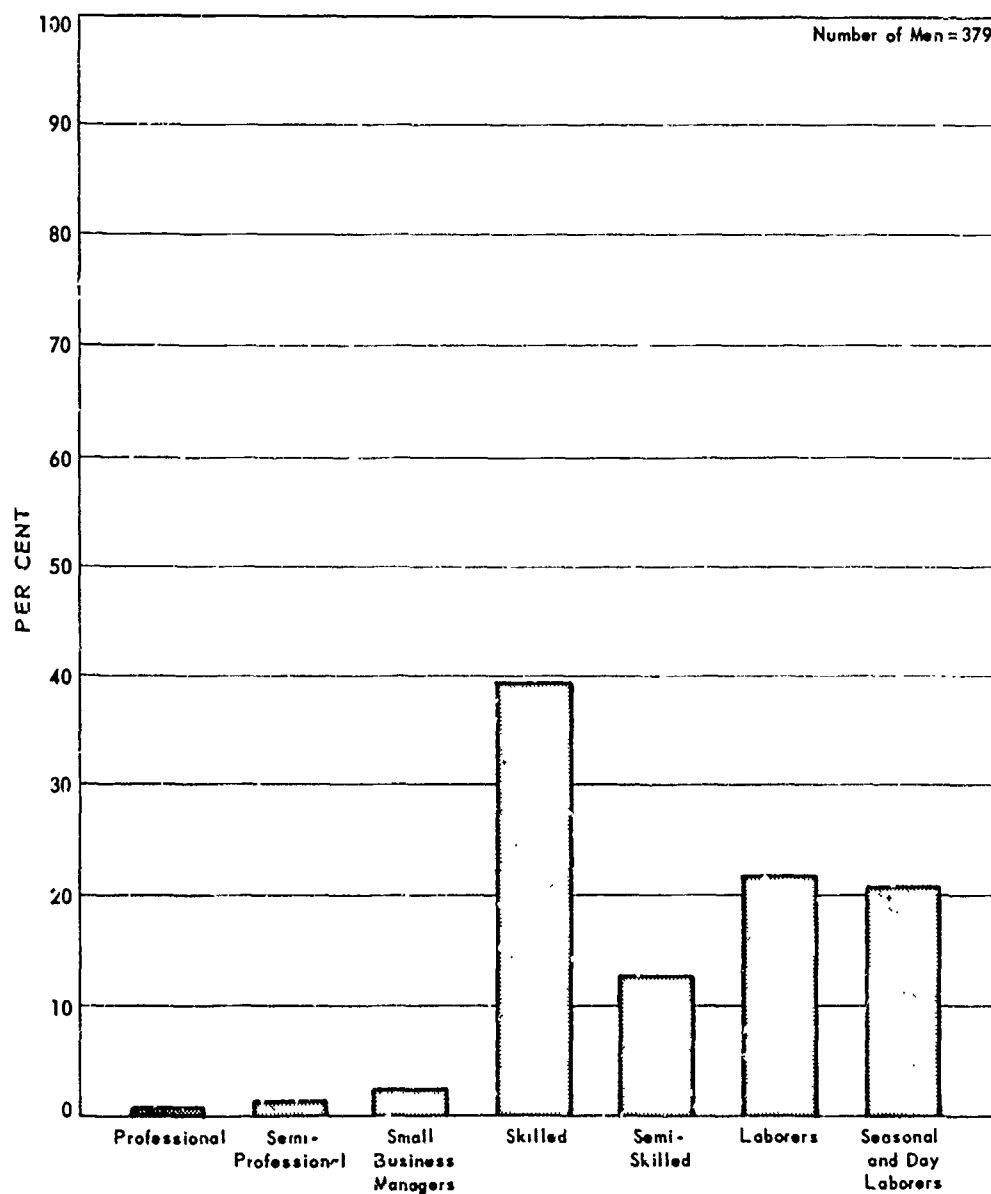


Figure 9

More than half of the wage-earners in the families of the front-line squad members were unskilled workers.

AVERAGE NUMBER OF BROTHERS AND SISTERS

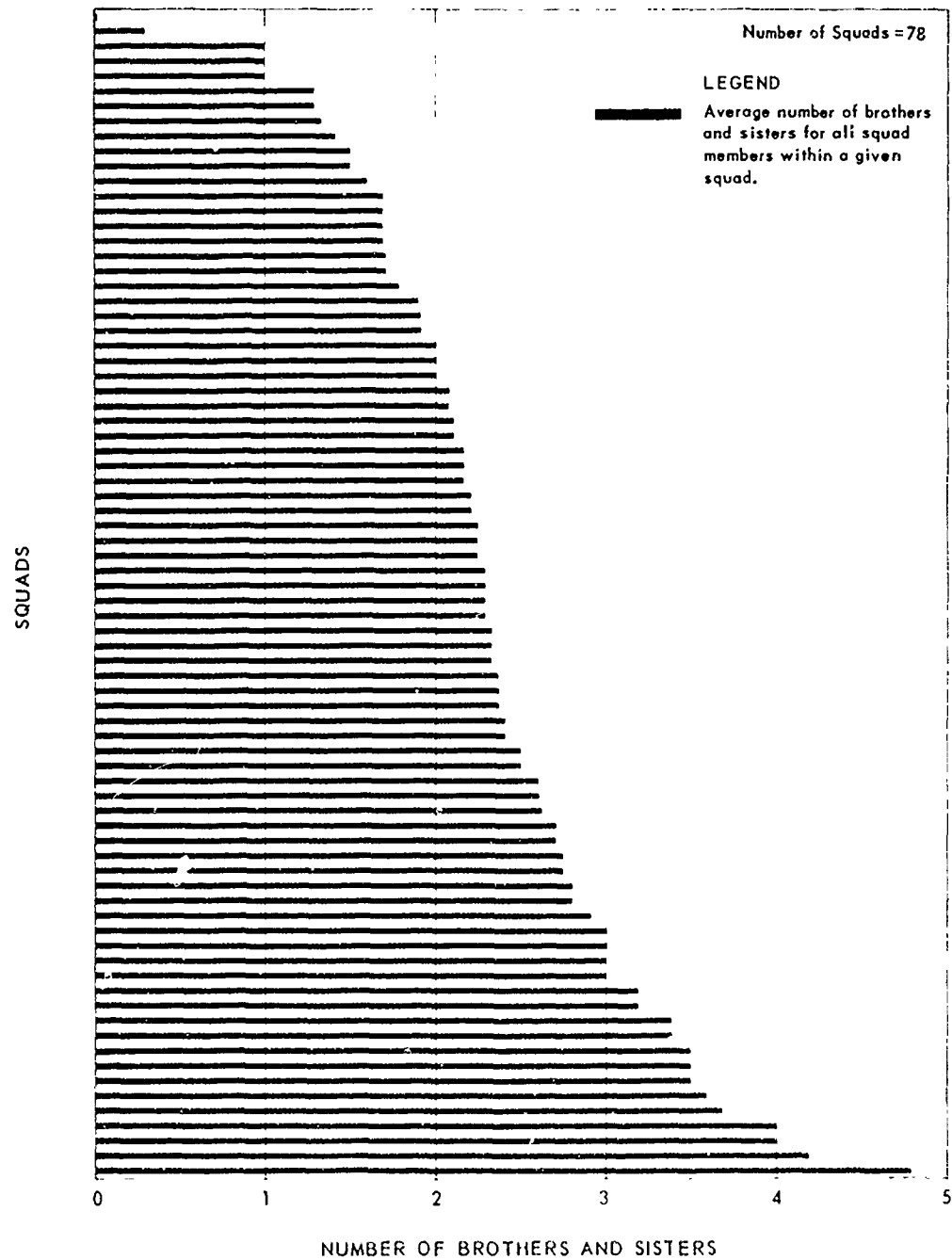


Figure 10

Most of the squad members come from homes which were shared with several brothers and sisters.

MARITAL STATUS OF SQUAD MEMBERS

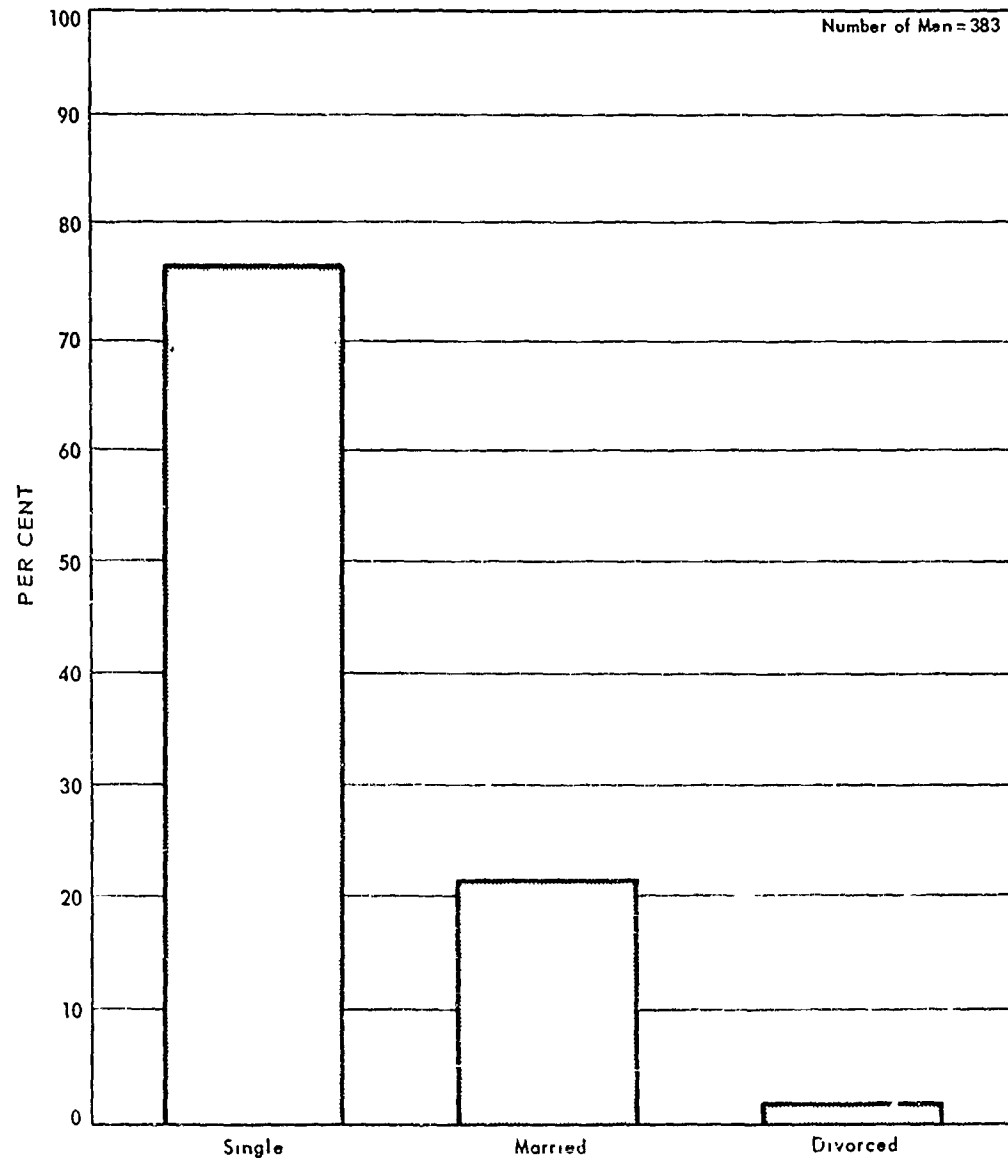
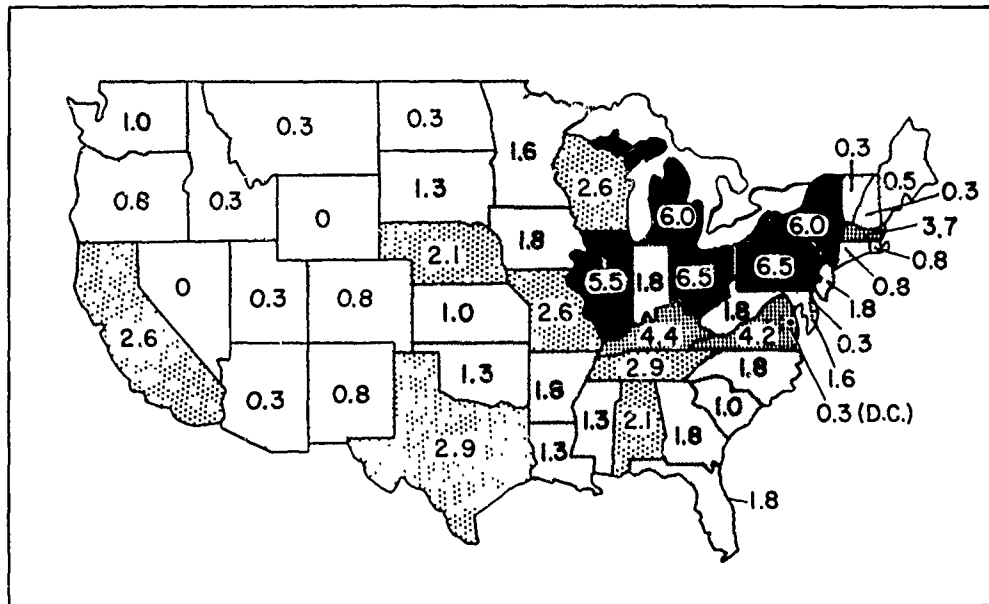


Figure 11

Most of the front-line riflemen have not yet assumed family responsibilities.

STATE OR COUNTRY FROM WHICH SOLDIER CAME



Area	Per Cent
Alaska	0.0
Guam	0.0
Hawaii	1.3
Puerto Rico	3.7
Canada	0.8
Philippine Islands	0.3
Other	0.5

Figure 12

The 40th Division had been a California National Guard Division, but by the winter of 1952-53 its personnel came from all parts of the country.

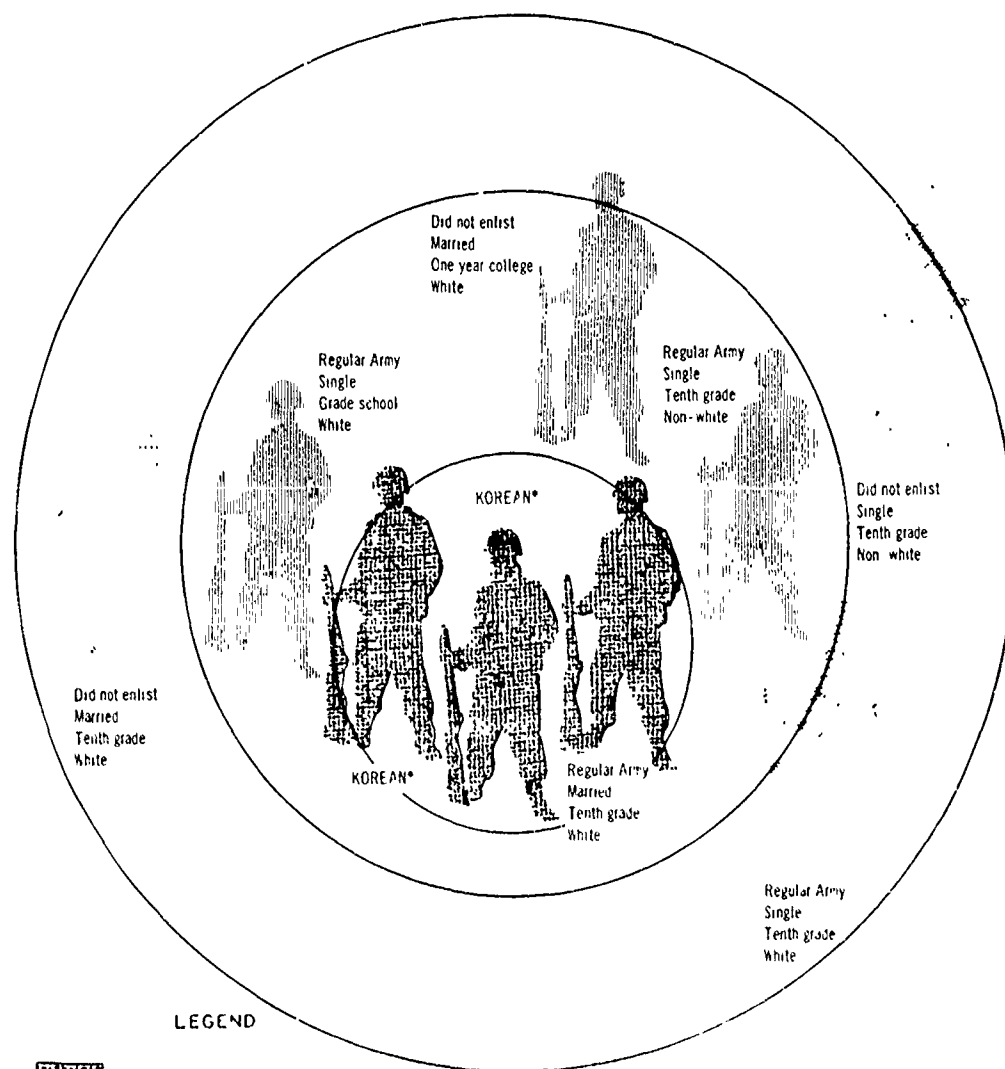
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TYPICAL SQUAD MEMBER




Is unmarried and white
Is 22 years old
Is from small town or rural area
Completed 10th year of school
Has three brothers and/or sisters
Is from lower socio-economic class
Has spent a total of 19 months in the Army
Has spent three months on MLR
Has spent three months in squad
Has 15 points toward rotation

Figure 13

TYPICAL SQUAD



LEGEND

-  In squad six months
-  In squad three months
-  In squad less than three months

*Korean Attached to the United States Army (KATUSA)

Figure 14

TYPICAL DAY OF AVERAGE FRONT-LINE SQUAD

TIME	SQUAD LEADER	ASSISTANT SQUAD LEADER	A 9 MAN	A 8 MAN	ASSISTANT A 8 MAN	ASSISTANT A 8 MAN	RIFLEMAN	RIFLEMAN	RIFLEMAN	TIME
0500										0500
	Ambush Patrol	Check Guard	Ambush Patrol	Sleep	Position Guard	Sleep	Position Guard	Ambush Patrol	Position Guard	
0600	Company CP	Police	Company CP	Phone Guard	"Sukoshi R"	Position Guard	Police	Company CP	Guard	0600
	Check Guard	Phone Guard	Position Guard	Position Guard			Position Guard	Position Guard	Position Guard	
0700							Guard	Hot Meal	Hot Meal	0700
	Hot Meal		Hot Meal							
0800	Phone Guard	Hot Meal	Guard	Hot Meal	("Sukoshi R" or "Little R" is a small shower, clothing exchange, and recreation center maintained by a battalion or regiment.)	Hot Meal	Hot Meal	Guard	Guard	0800
	Sleep	Sleep	Sleep	Position Guard		Position Guard	Phone Guard	Sleep	Sleep	
0900				Phone Guard			Position Guard			0900
1000				Phone Guard						1000
1100			Phone Guard	Sleep		Sleep	Sleep	Position Guard	Position Guard	1100
1200	C Ration	C Ration	C Ration	C Ration		C Ration	C Ration	C Ration	C Ration	1200
1300	Supervise	Supervise	Care and Cleaning	Position Guard		Position Guard	Phone Guard	Care and Cleaning	Care and Cleaning	1300
1400	Platoon CP		Phone Guard	Care and Cleaning		Care and Cleaning	Care and Cleaning	Position Guard	Position Guard	1400
1500	Phone Guard	Hot Meal	Guard	Hot Meal		Hot Meal	Hot Meal	Guard	Guard	1500
1600	Hot Meal	Phone Guard	Hot Meal	Guard		Guard	Guard	Hot Meal	Hot Meal	1600
1700	Check Guard		Position Guard	Position Guard		Position Guard	Position Guard	Position Guard	Position Guard	1700
1800	Set-up	Company CP	Guard	Company CP		Company CP	Phone Guard	Guard	Guard	1800
	Check Guard	Ambush Patrol	Sleep	Ambush Patrol	Position Guard	Ambush Patrol	Phone Guard	Sleep	Position Guard	
1900					Phone Guard		Position Guard			1900
2000			Position Guard				Sleep	Position Guard	Sleep	2000
2100					Position Guard			Phone Guard		2100
2200		Company CP	Phone Guard	Company CP	Sleep	Company CP	Position Guard	Sleep	Position Guard	2200
2300		Phone Guard	Position Guard	Position Guard	Position Guard	Position Guard		Position Guard		2300*
2400							Combat Outpost		Combat Outpost	2400
0100		Sleep	Sleep	Phone Guard	Sleep	Position Guard				0100*
0200	Sleep	Check Guard	Position Guard	Sleep	Position Guard	Sleep		Phone Guard		0200
0300	Check Guard	Sleep			Phone Guard			Position Guard		0300
0400	Sleep	Check Guard		Phone Guard	Sleep	Position Guard		Sleep		0400
0500										0500

*0630 to 0730 hrs. 100% alert
2300 to 0100 hrs.

Figure 15

AMOUNT OF TIME DEVOTED BY SQUAD TO VARIOUS DAILY TASKS

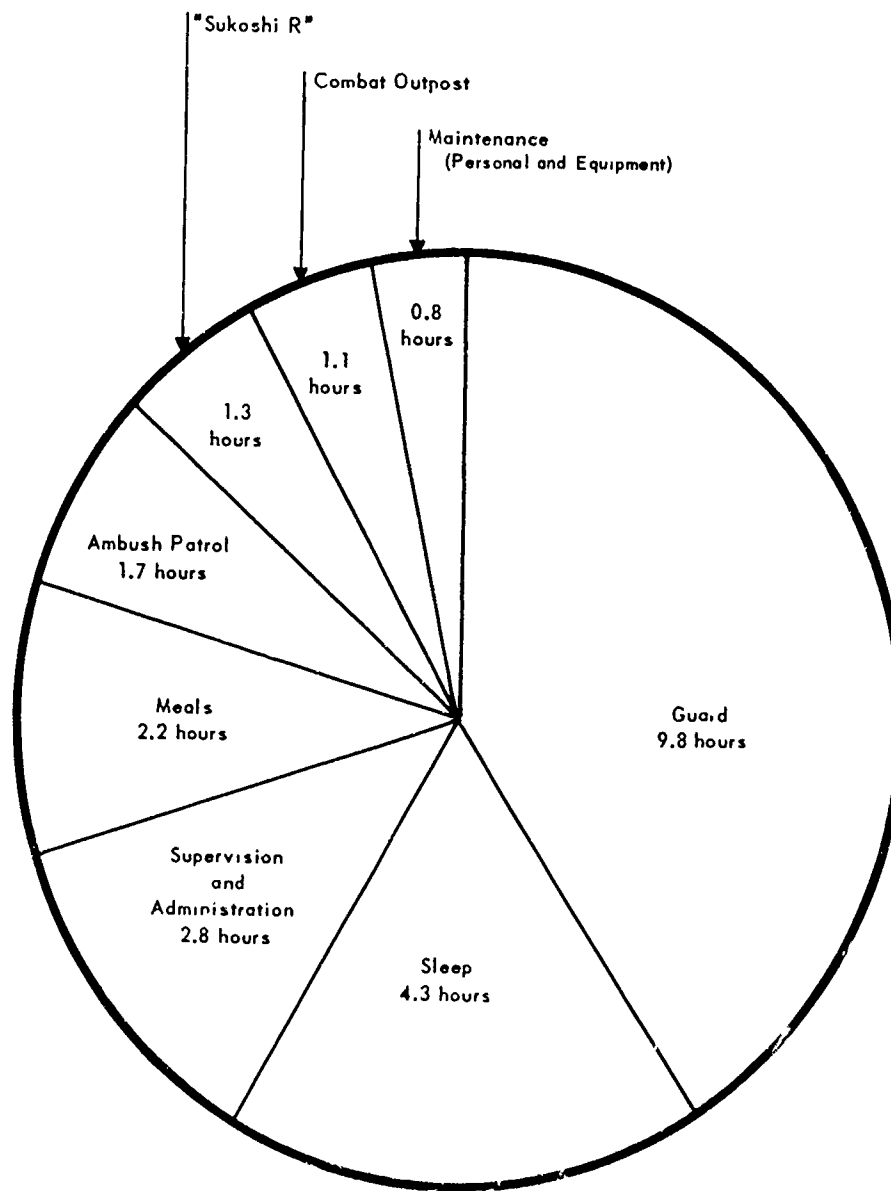


Figure 16

SQUAD COMPONENTS

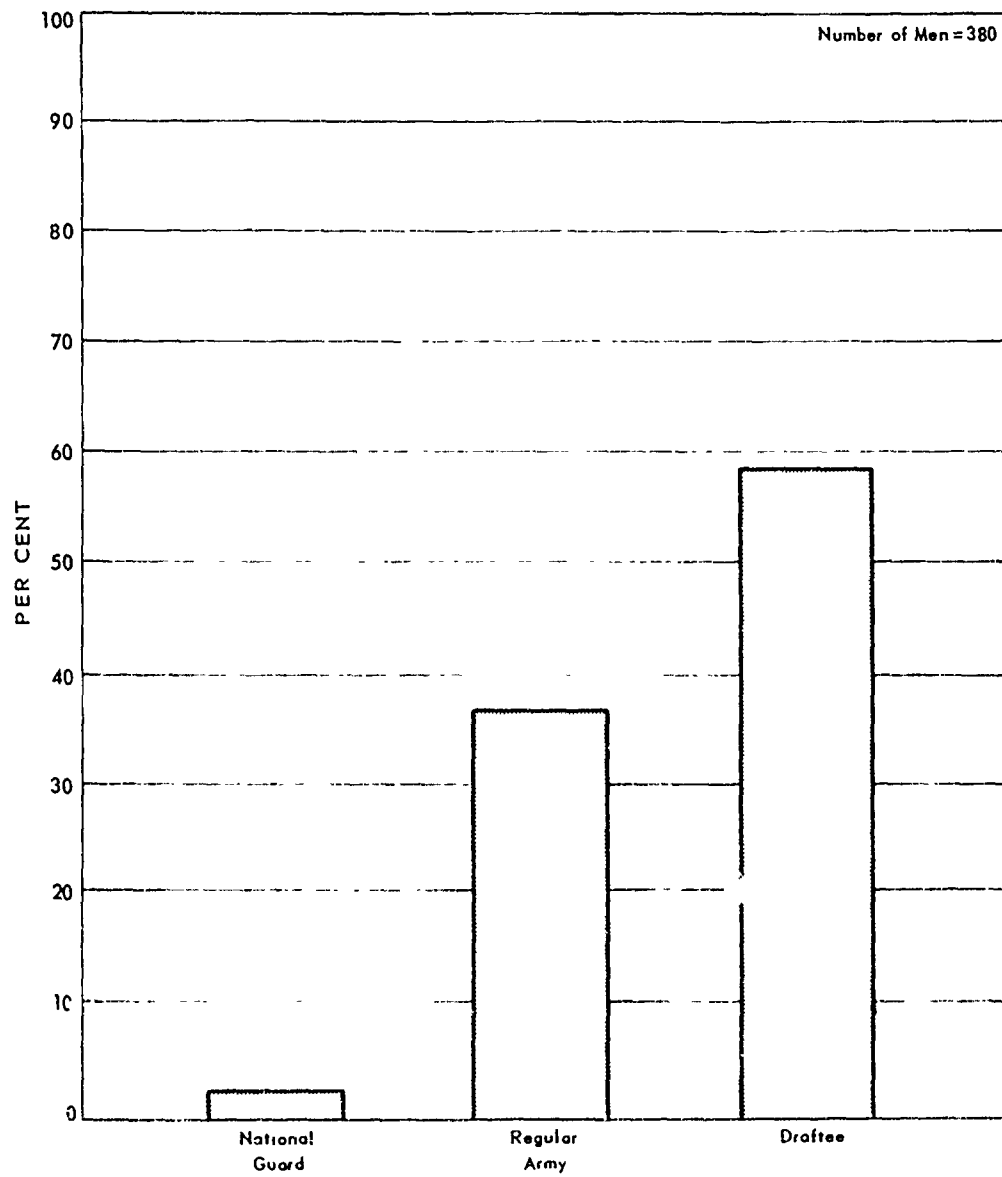


Figure 17

The proportions of enlisted and drafted men on the front line are similar to the proportions for the entire Army.

TOTAL MONTHS IN THE ARMY

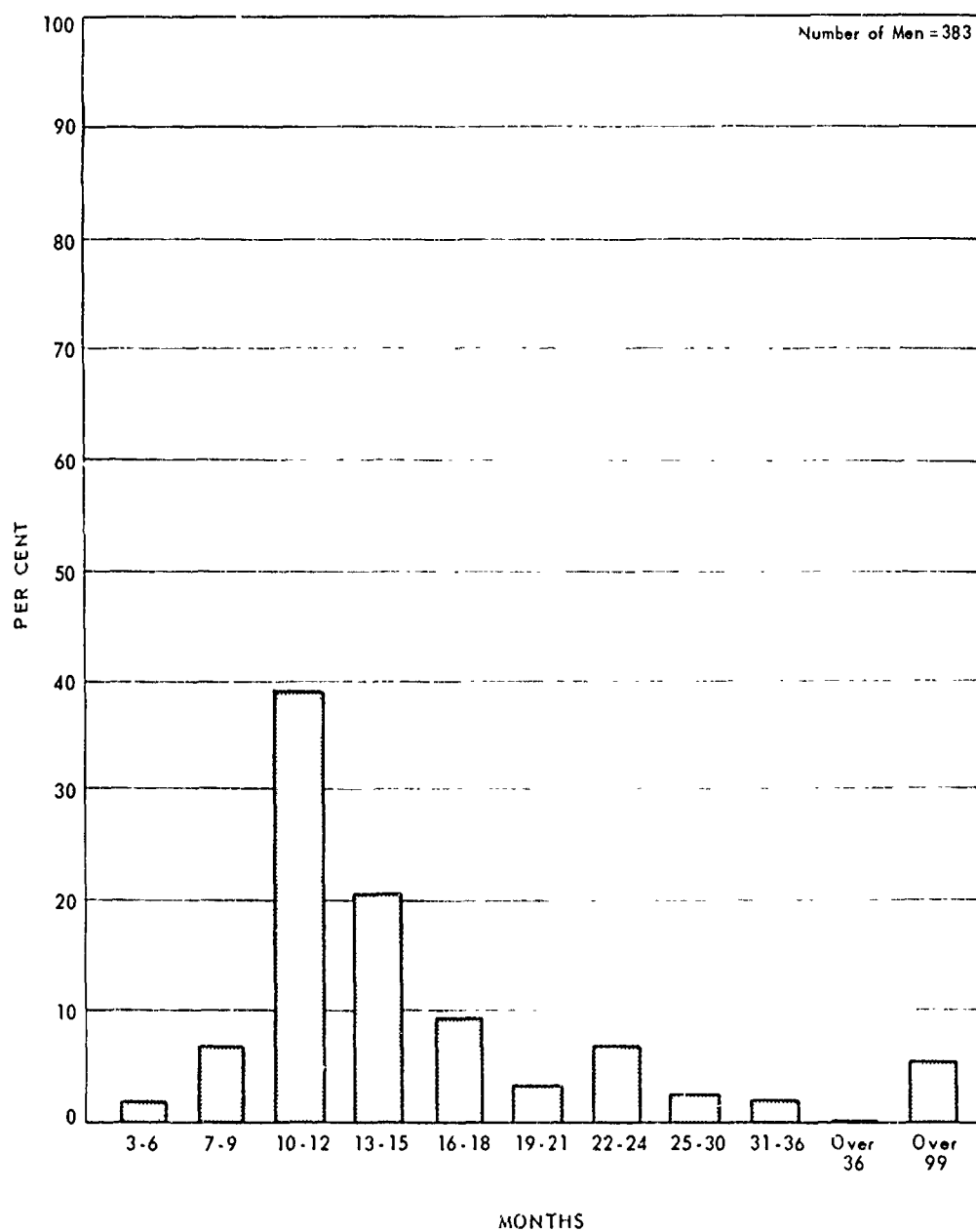


Figure 18

Three-fourths of the men have been in the Army less than 18 months.

TOTAL MONTHS IN KOREA

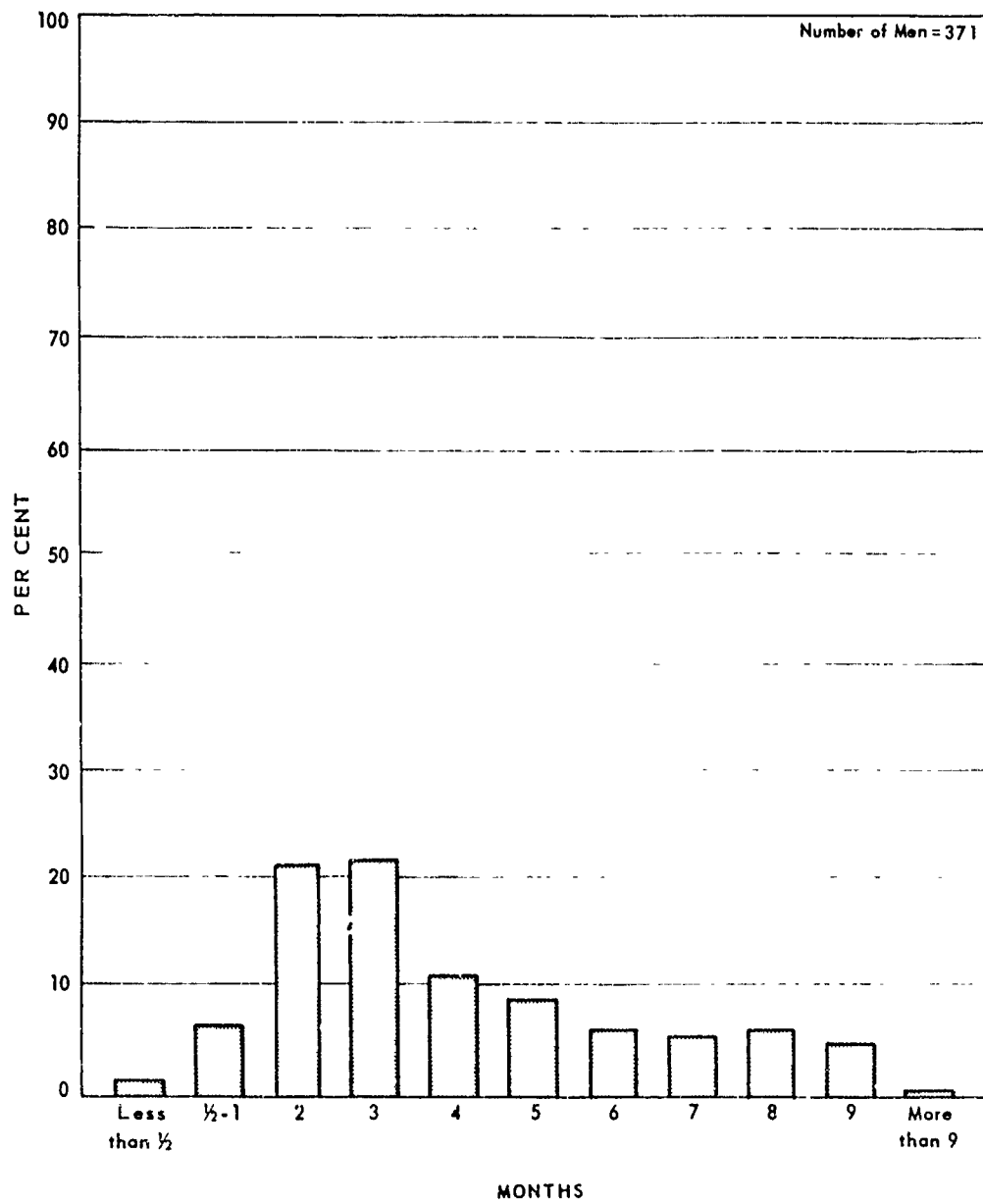


Figure 19

Half the men have been in Korea less than four months.

TOTAL MONTHS ON MLR

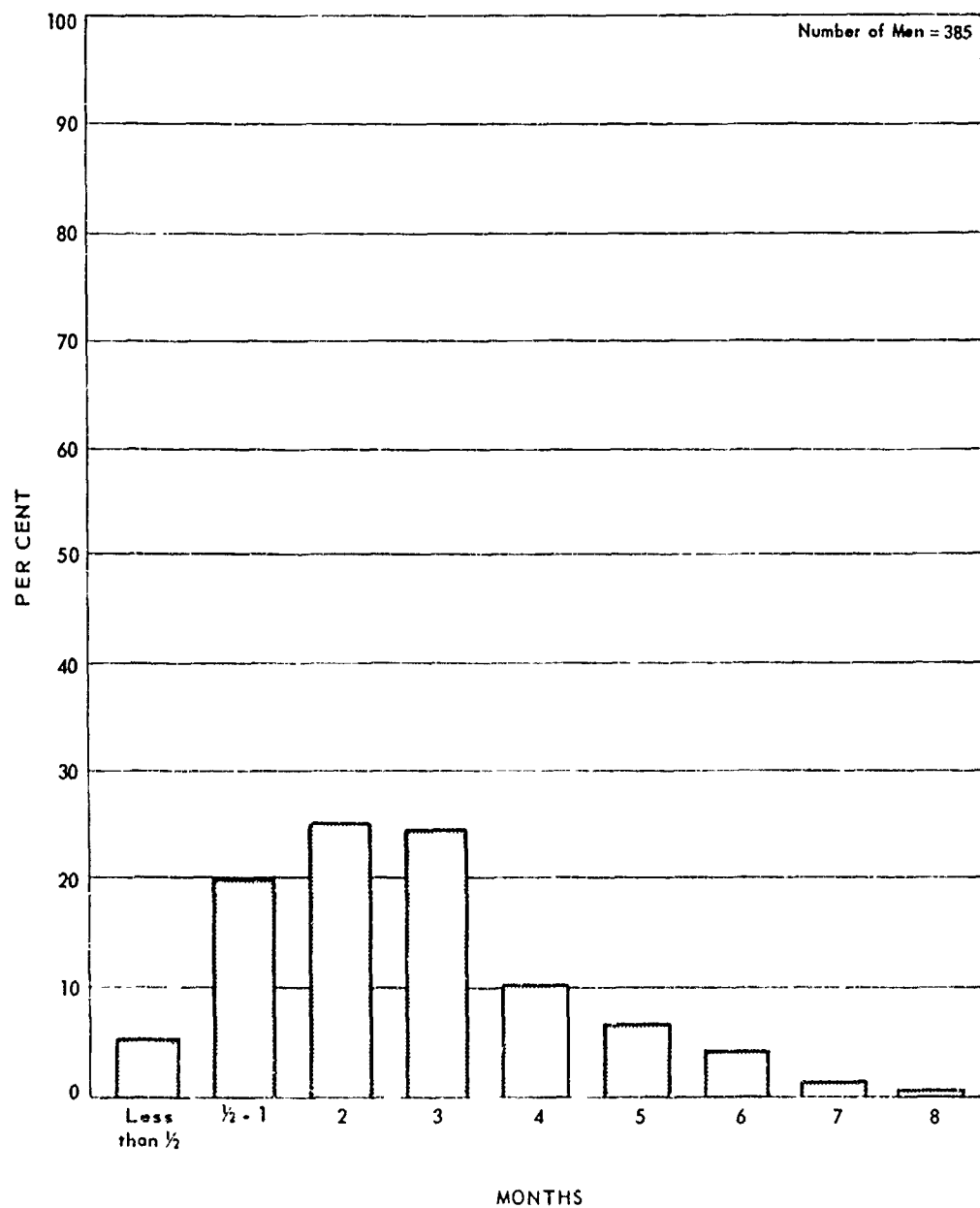


Figure 20

Three-fourths of the men have been on the MLR less than four months.

TOTAL MONTHS AS MEMBER OF PRESENT SQUAD

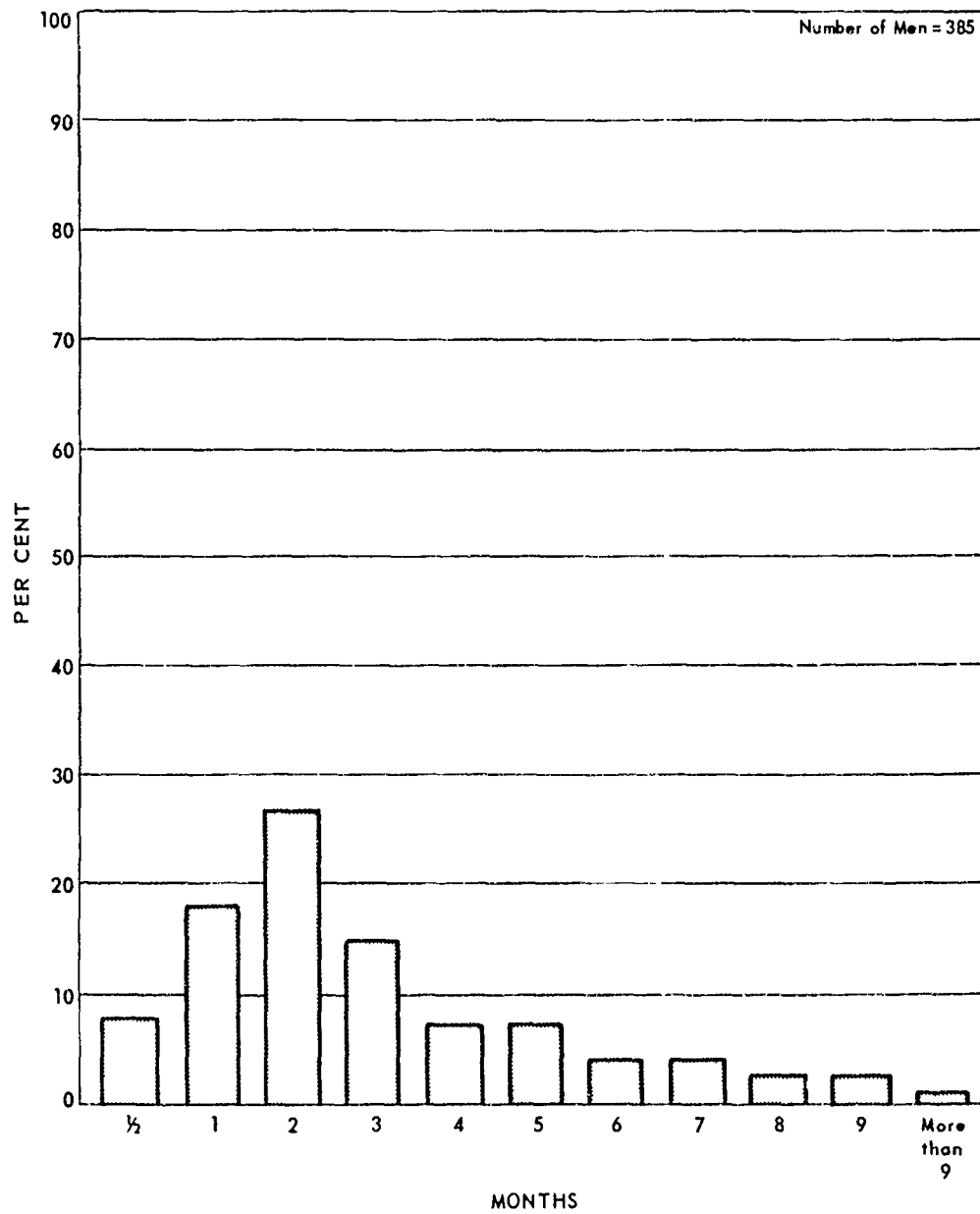


Figure 21

Membership in squads changes so fast that more than half of the men have been in a squad less than three months.

MONTHS AS MEMBER OF PRESENT SQUAD

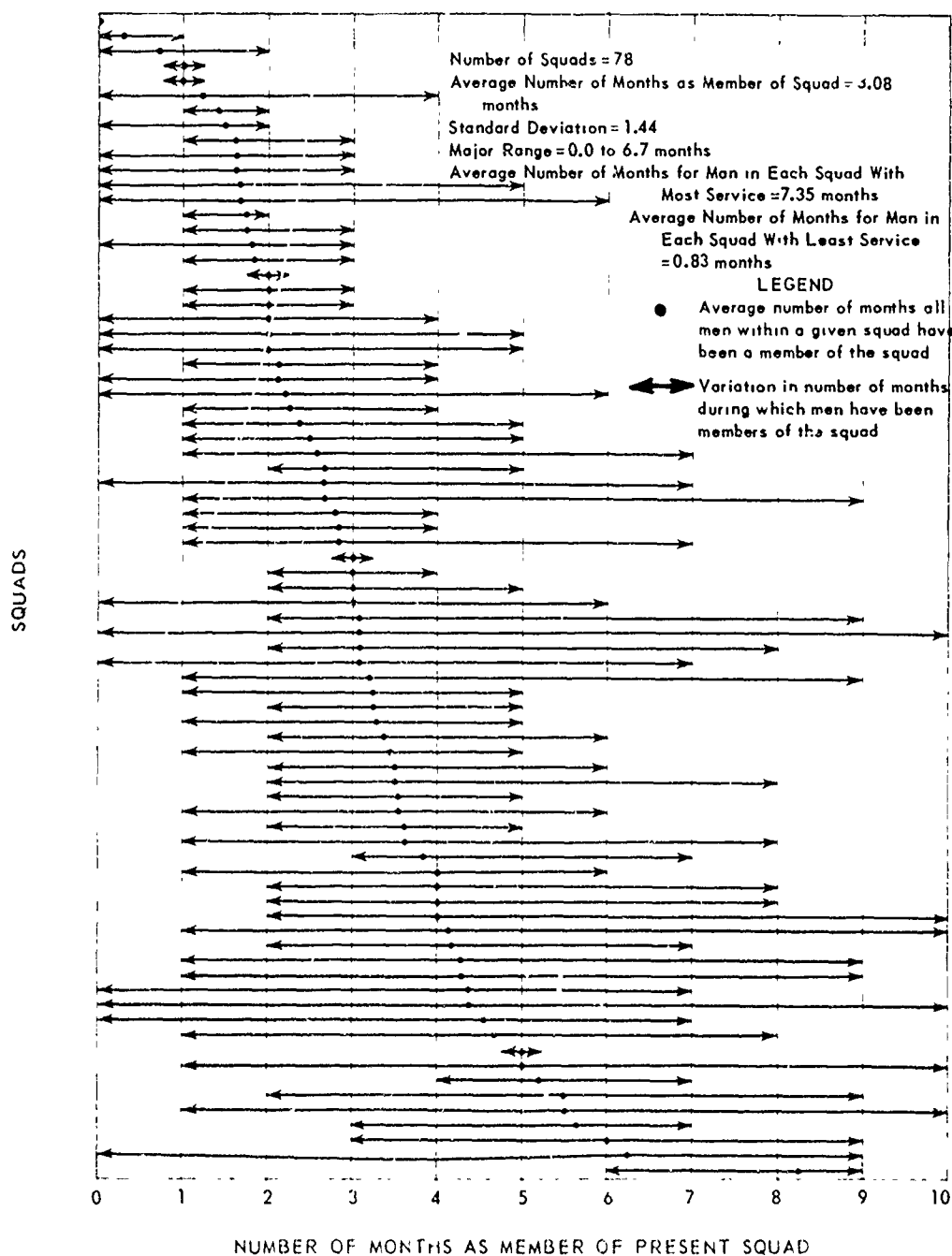


Figure 22

In half of the squads the average man has been a squad member less than three months. Two-thirds of the squads have members who have been in the squad a month or less. Two-fifths of the squads have "old-timers" who have been in the squad more than six months.

RANKS OF SQUAD MEMBERS

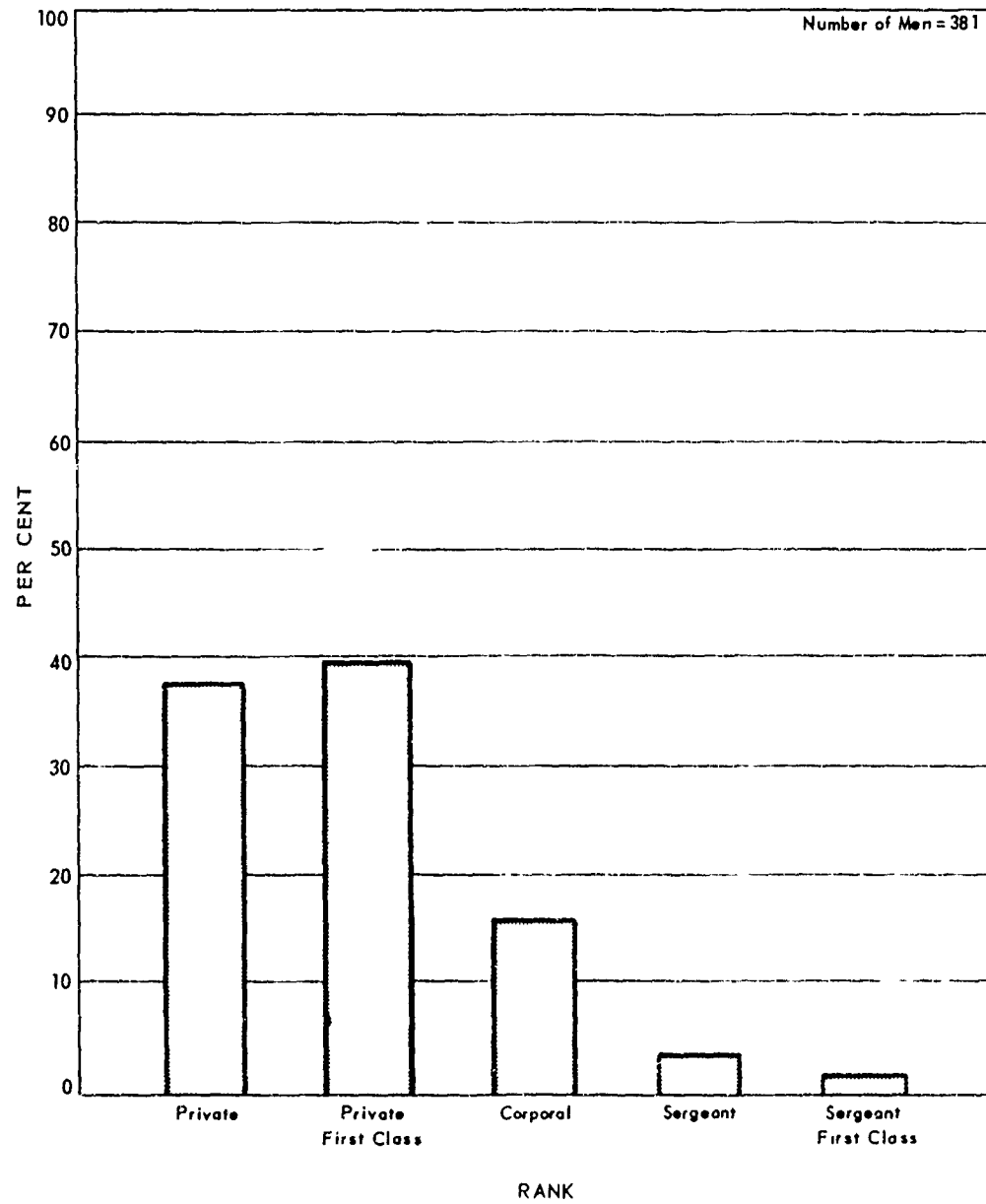


Figure 23

Front-line squads are operating at not more than two-thirds' strength in NCO's.

TIMES PROMOTED SINCE BECOMING MEMBER OF PRESENT SQUAD

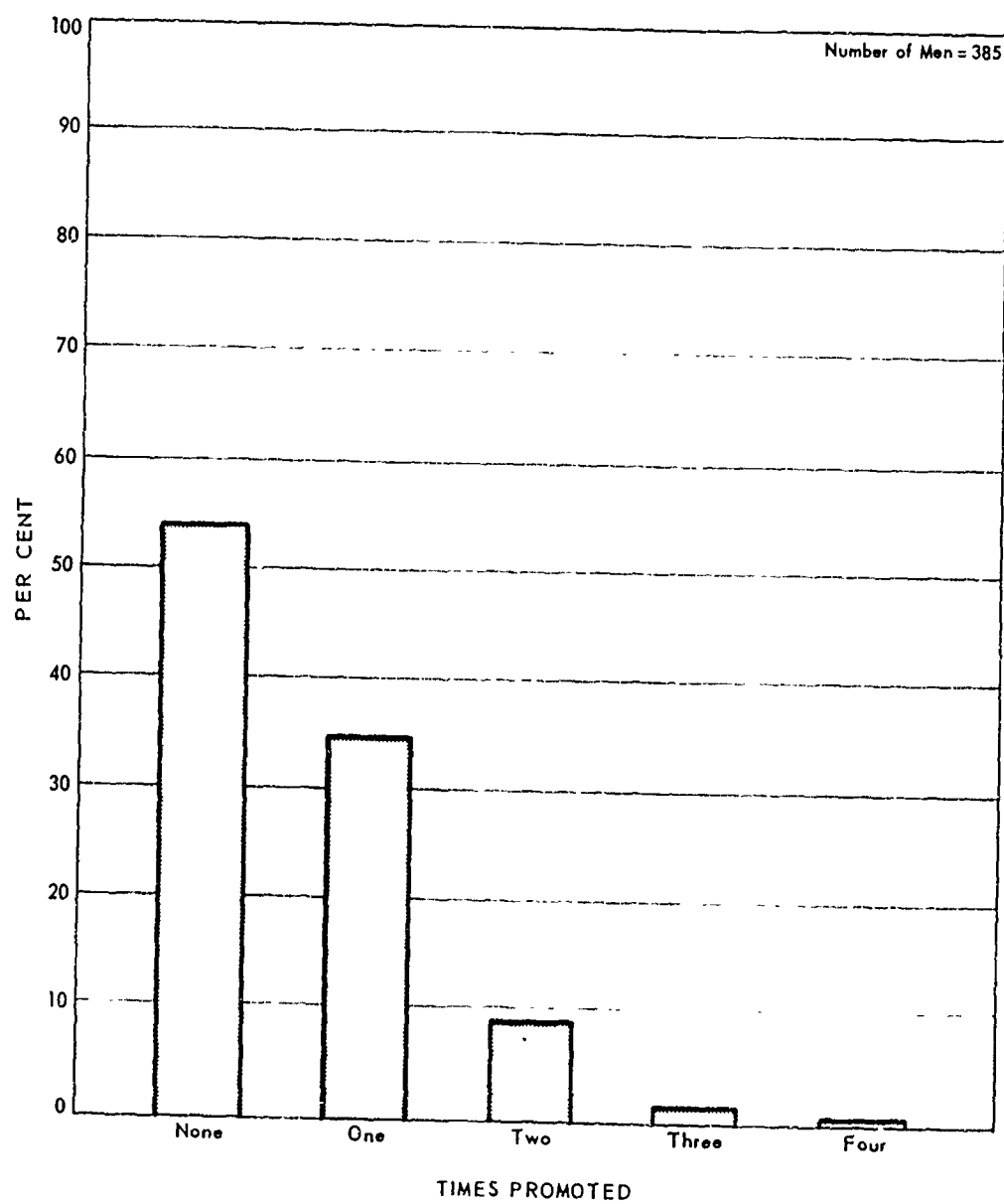


Figure 24

Although on the average the men have been in the squad only three months, almost half have received a promotion.

TIMES WOUNDED SINCE BECOMING MEMBER OF PRESENT SQUAD

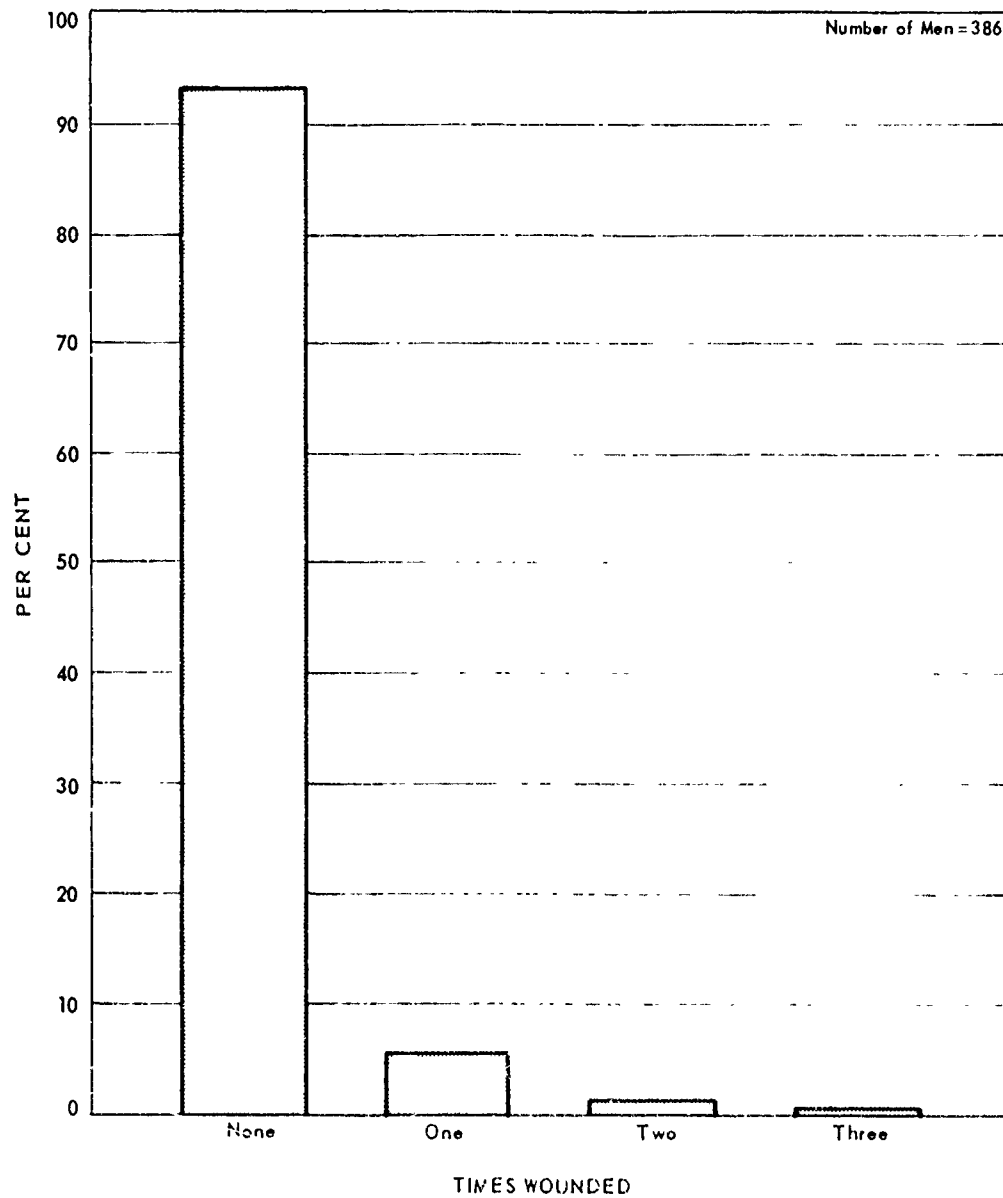


Figure 25

These front-line squads have not had such contact with the enemy.

TIMES RECEIVED COMPANY PUNISHMENT
SINCE BECOMING A MEMBER OF PRESENT SQUAD

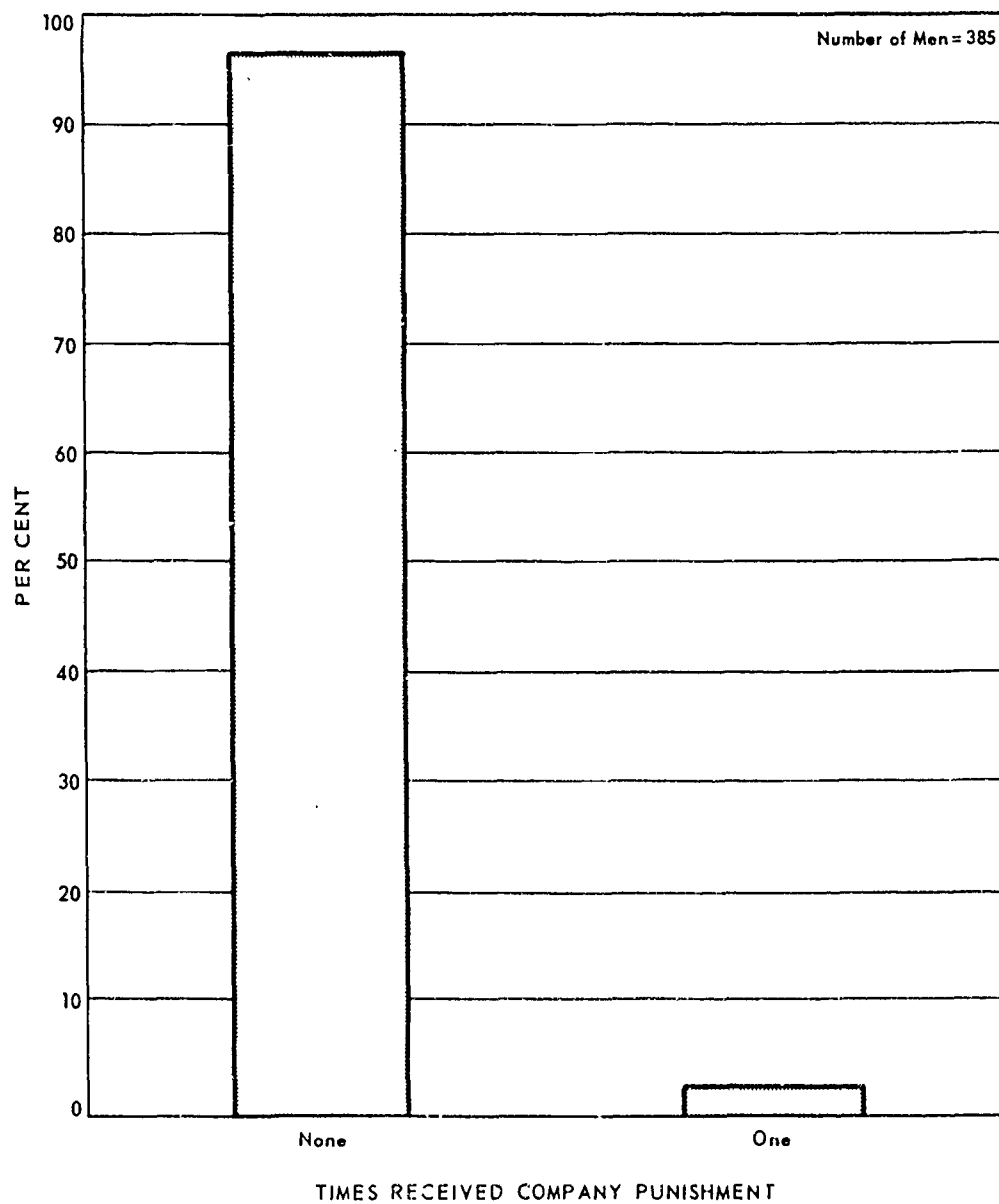
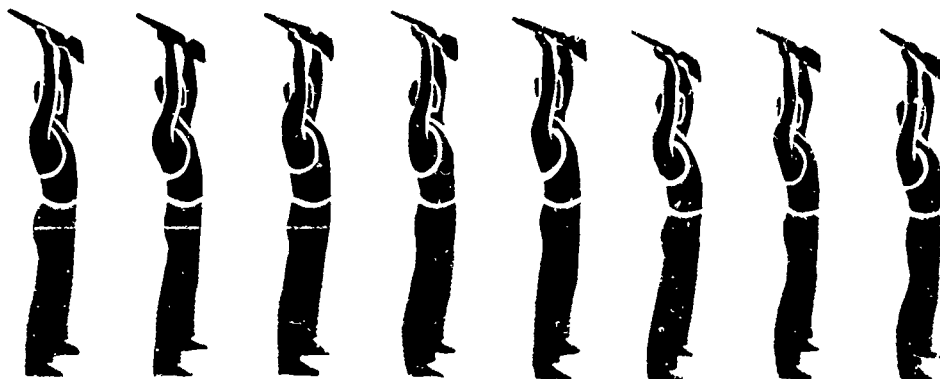


Figure 26

Company punishment is very rare on the front line.

[illegible]

WRITTEN INFANTRY WEAPONS TEST

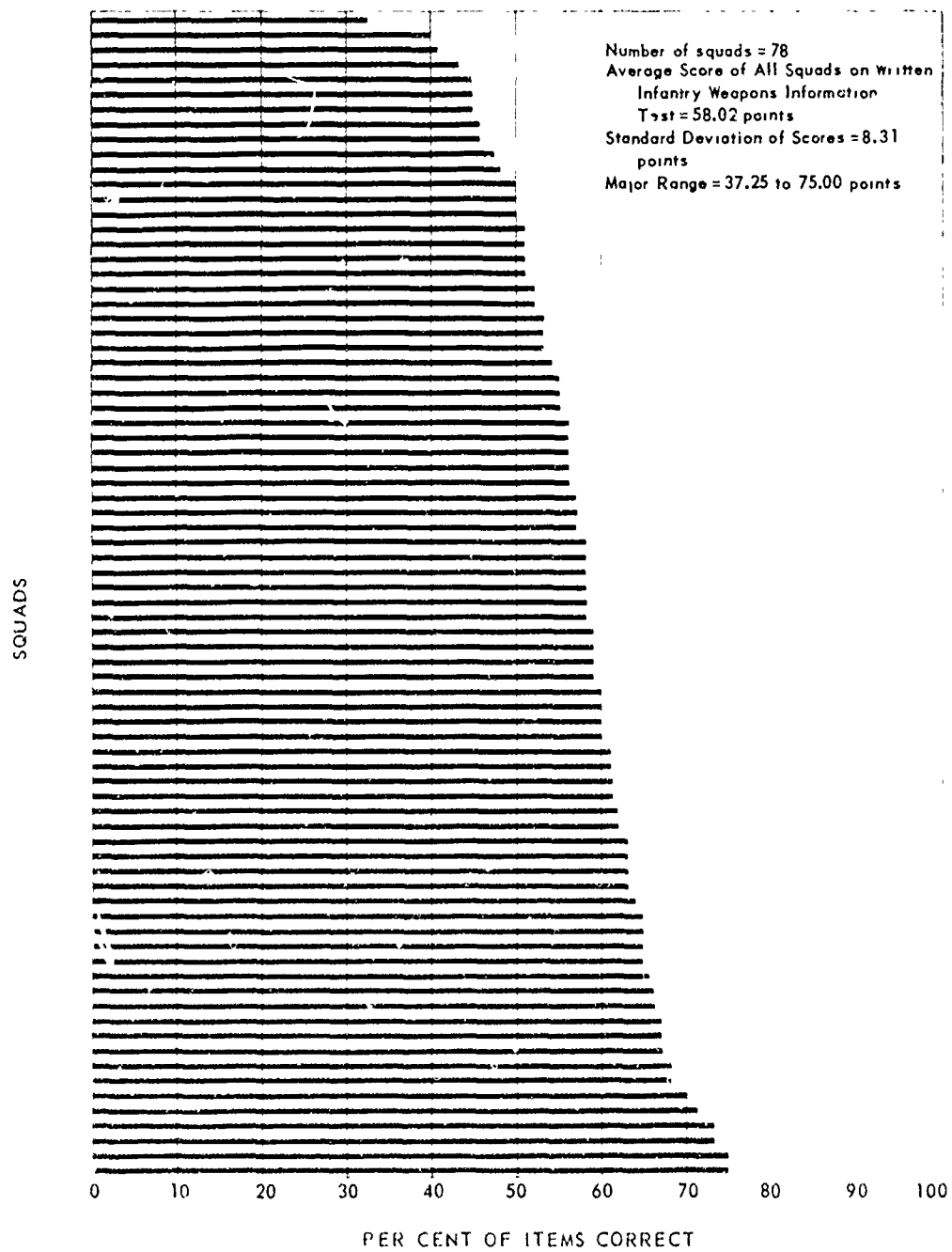


Figure 27

No squad averaged high scores and some scored quite low on a written weapons information test.

SQUAD MEMBERS HAVING SPECIALIZED TRAINING BEYOND BASIC

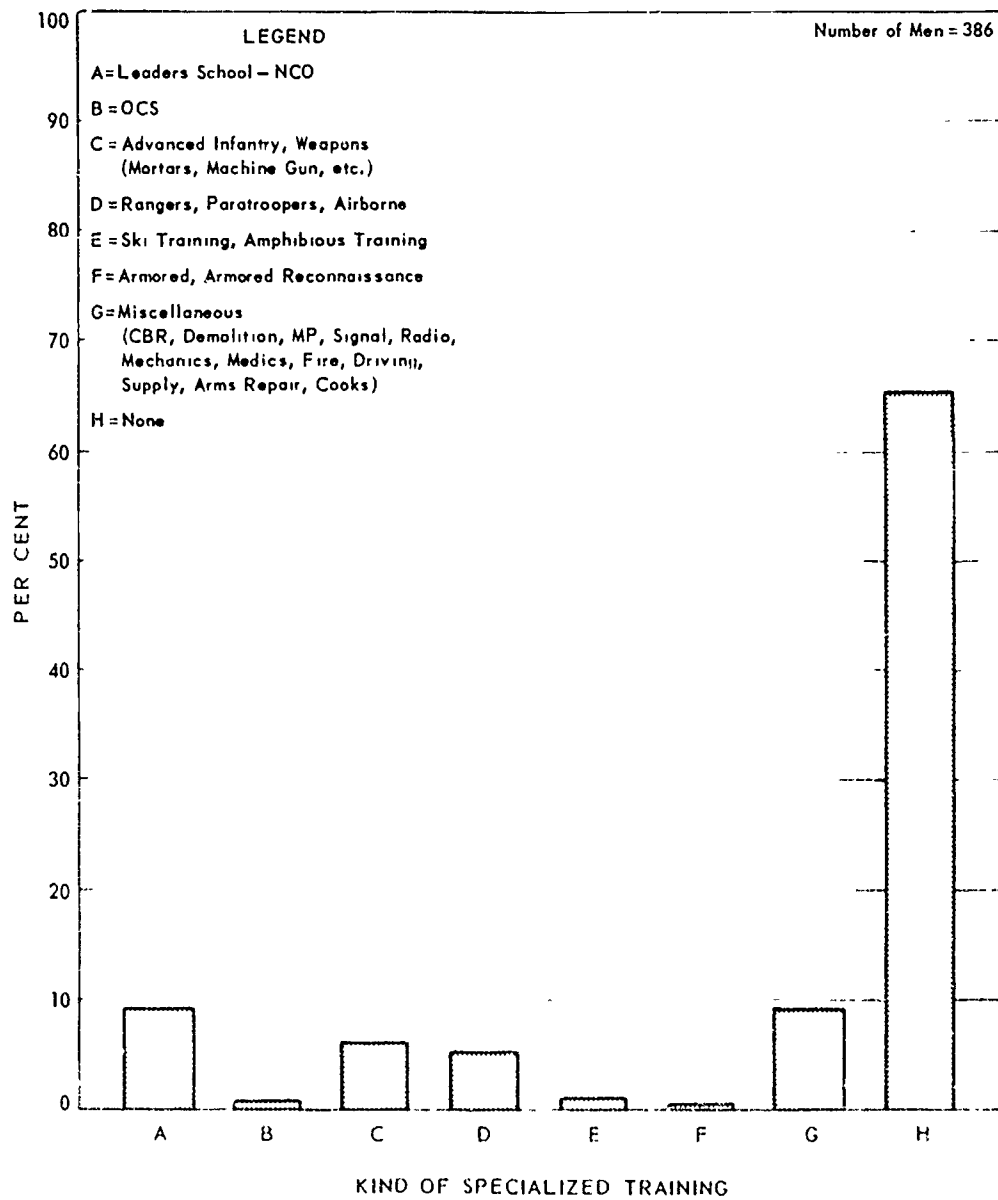


Figure 28

Over 30 per cent of the men in front-line rifle squads have Army training past basic

PERCENTAGE OF SQUAD HAVING SPECIALIZED TRAINING BEYOND BASIC

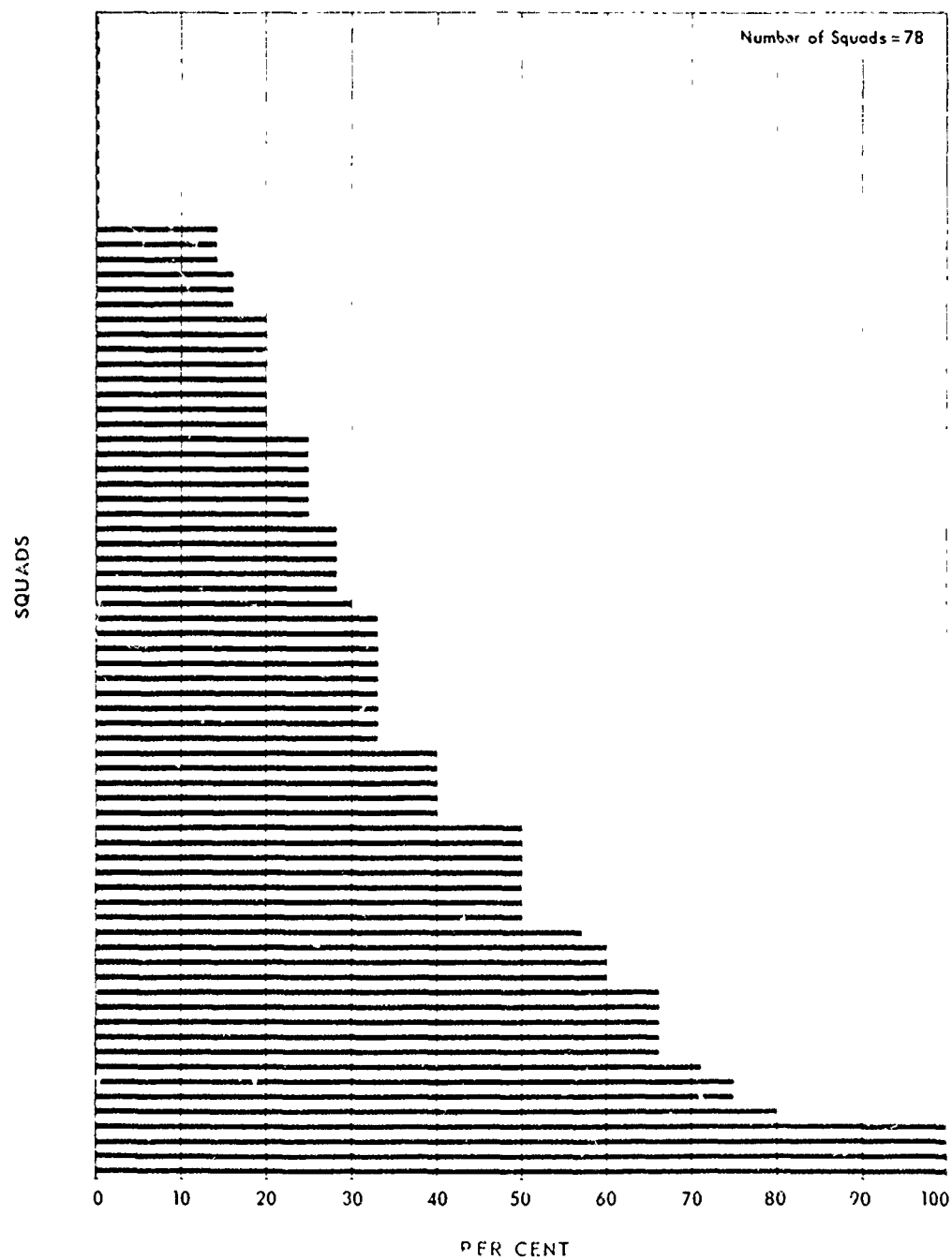


Figure 29

Rifleman do not have an equal opportunity to come in contact with squad-mates who have special training beyond basic.

WORLD WAR II SERVICE

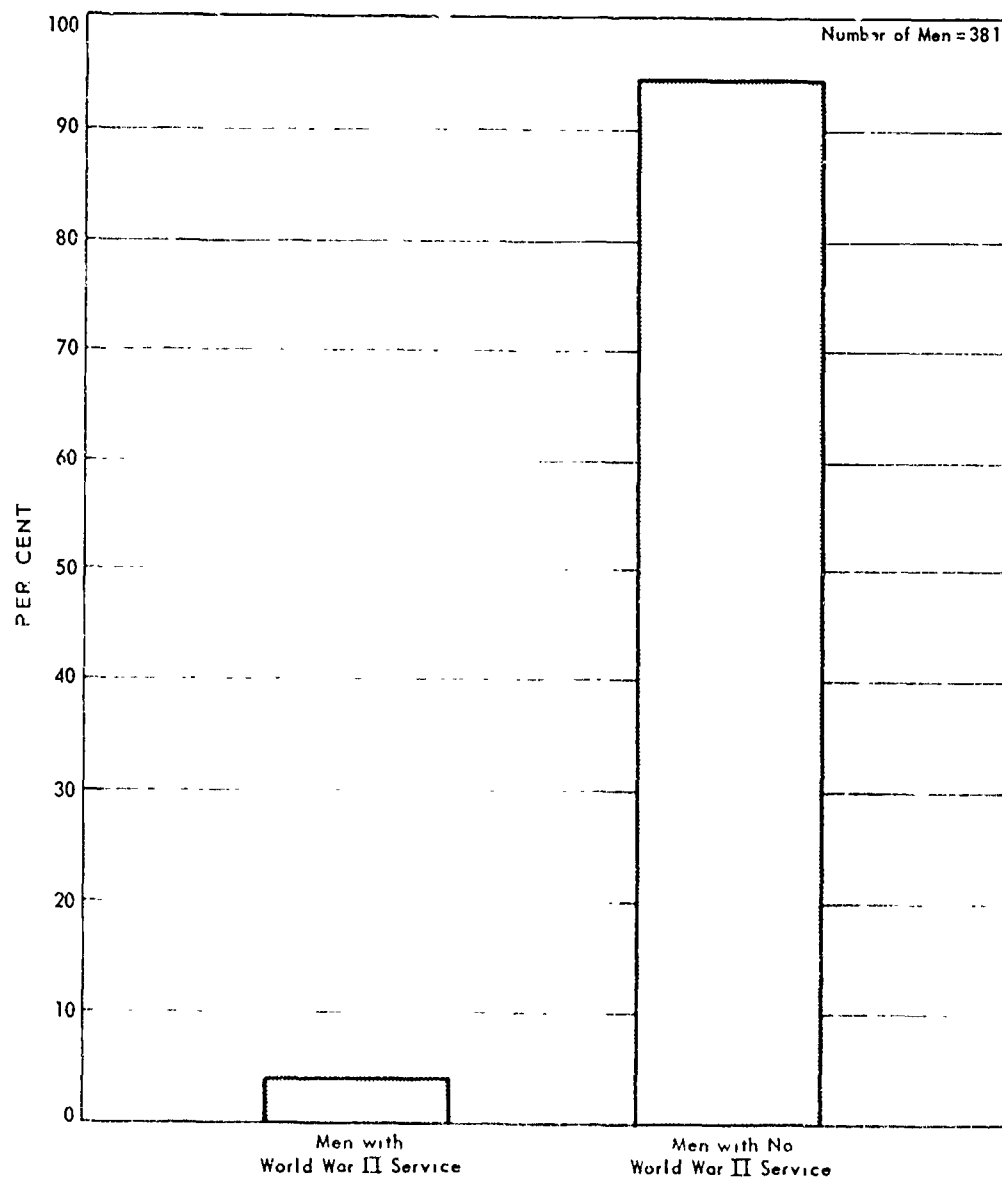


Figure 30

The front-line riflemen have had little previous experience in any other combat situation.

[illegible]

A MEASURE OF AMBITION

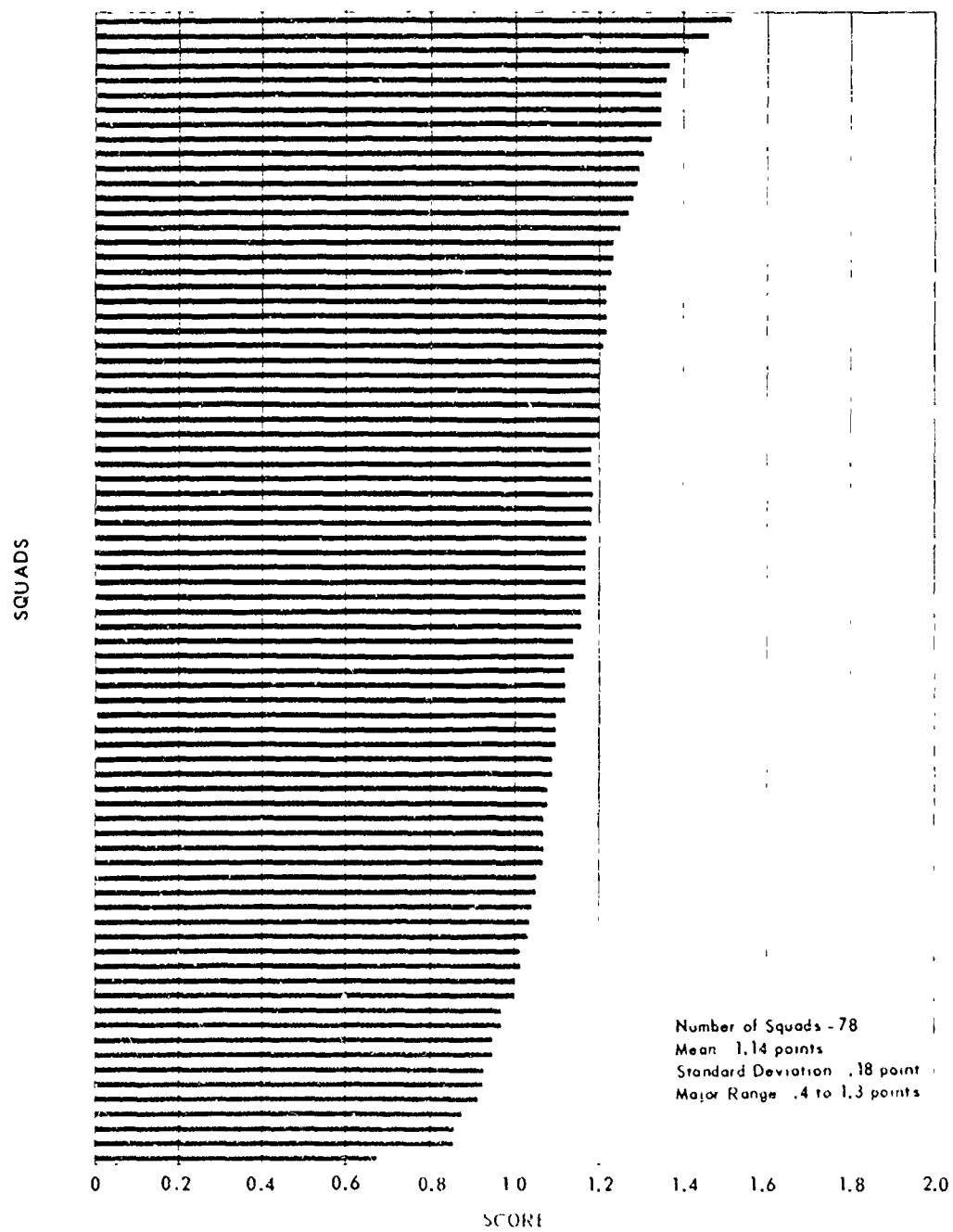


Figure 31

On a questionnaire about ambition, a rifleman could score from low to high ambition. Over 80 per cent of the squads had an average ambition score above the midpoint of the scale.

AUTHORITY ORIENTATION

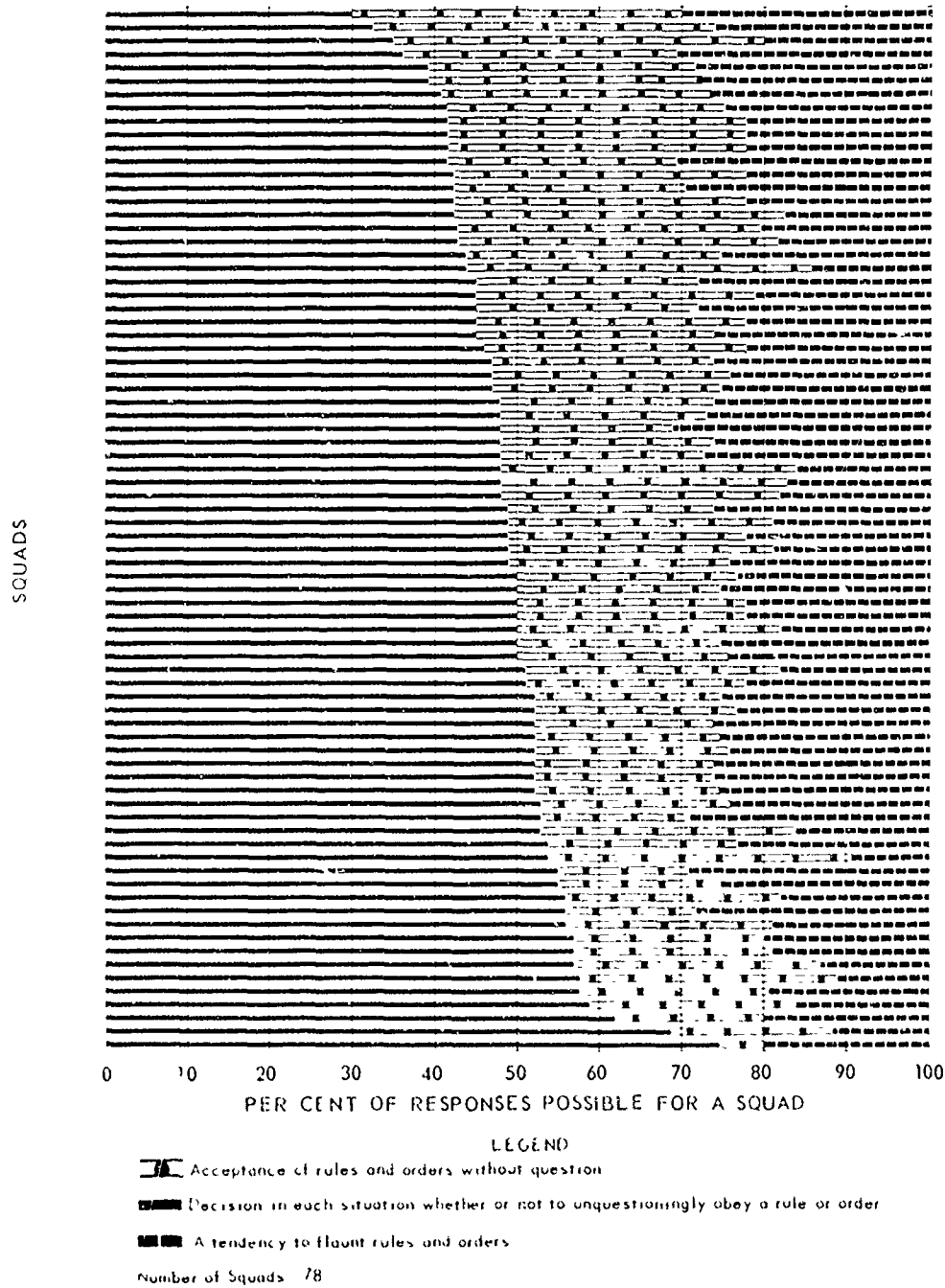


Figure 32

According to answers to the questionnaire used, in only three squads would the average reaction be to accept rules and orders without question. All of the other squads would tend to evaluate each new situation and decide whether or not to give unquestioning obedience to a rule or order. In no squad is there a strong tendency to flaunt orders.



The average squad member thinks that:



Figure 33

The North Koreans are barbaric and inhuman in treatment of prisoners.



The average squad member thinks that:

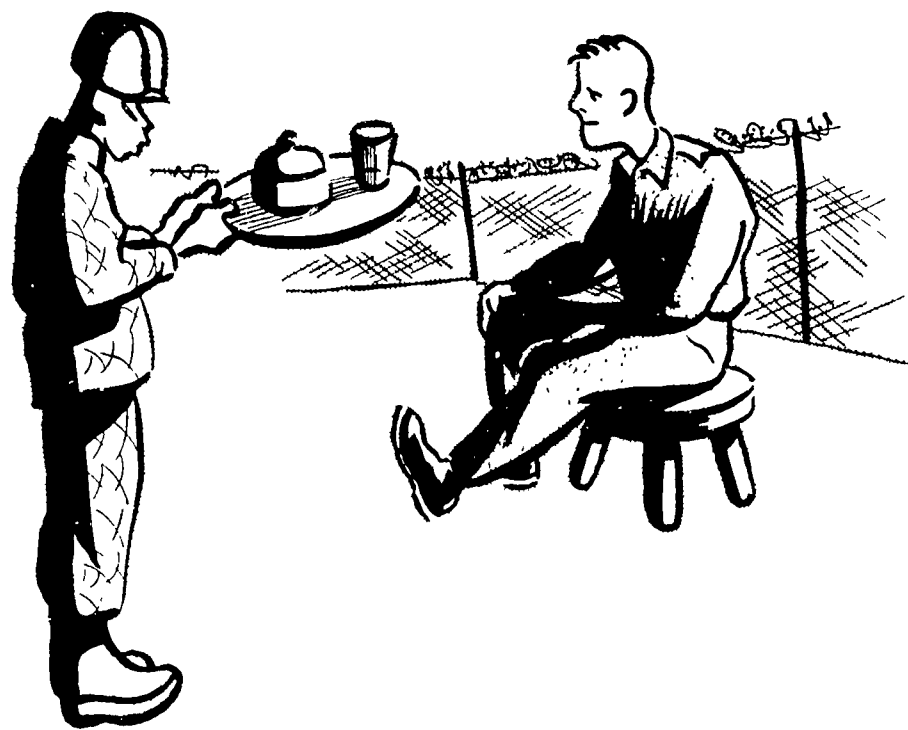


Figure 34

The Chinese are civil in their treatment of prisoners.



Figure 35

The enemy attacks so fiercely because he is doped.



The average squad member thinks that:



Figure 36

The enemy is more patient than the G.I. in setting up an ambush.



The average squad member thinks that:

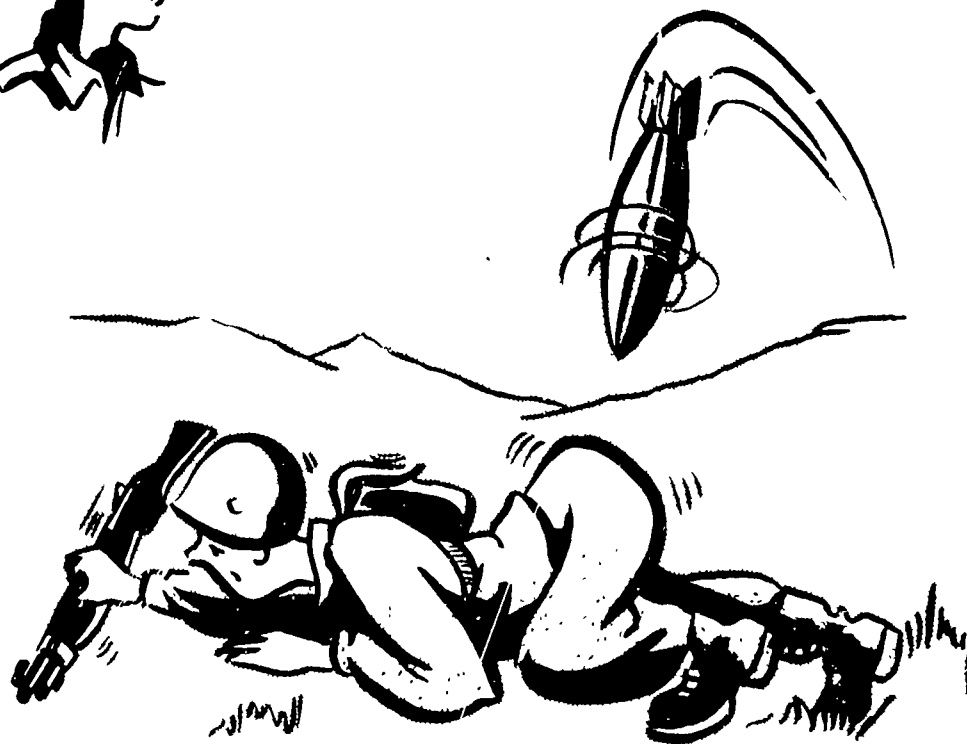


Figure 37

The enemy is extremely accurate with mortar fire.



The average squad member thinks that:

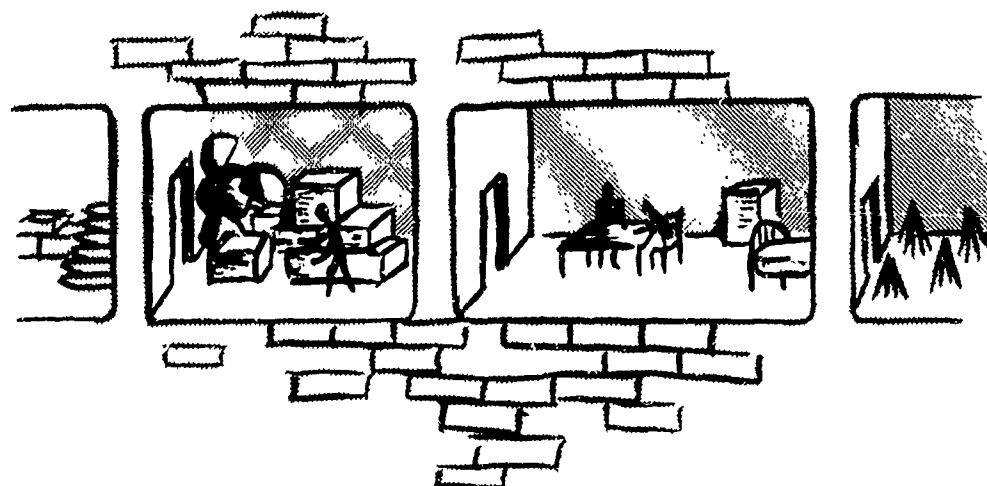
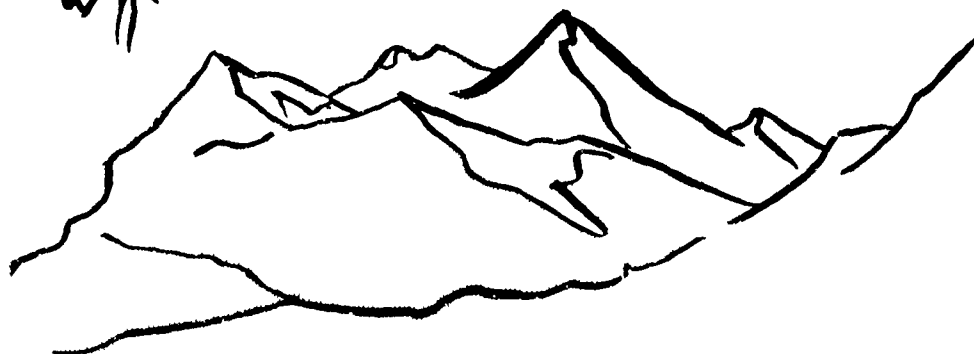


Figure 38

The enemy is dug into impenetrable positions.



The average squad member thinks that:



Figure 39

The katusas sleep on guard.



The average squad member thinks that:

Figure 40

The Katusa has superhuman strength.



The average squad member thinks that:



Figure 41

The Katusa sees well in the dark.

[illegible]

SUMMARY

CIVILIAN BACKGROUND OF SQUAD MEMBERS

Most of the riflemen on the front line are between 18 and 29 years of age; half of them are 21 or 22 years old.

The educational background of front-line riflemen is relatively low; in most squads the variation in background within the squad is large.

More than 60 per cent of the front-line riflemen did not graduate from high school. The average grade completed was the tenth.

Over 75 per cent of the riflemen on the front line have had civilian experience working for others.

Almost one-fifth of the squad members serving on the front line have parents who were not born in the U. S. A.

Even though approximately half of the riflemen on the front line have Northern European ancestry, there are six minority groups and minority combinations.

Although some squads had no non-European minority group members, most of the squads had at least one or two such members, and in many squads over half of the men were minority group members.

The Negro population is not evenly distributed among front-line squads.

More than half of the wage earners in the families of the front-line squad members were unskilled workers.

Most of the squad members come from homes which were shared with several brothers and sisters.

Over three-fourths of the squad members were single.

The 40th had been a California National Guard Division, but by the winter of 1952-53 its personnel came from all parts of the country.

ATTRIBUTES OF SQUADS AND SQUAD MEMBERS

The typical squad is composed of nine men. Most of these men have been in the squad three months or less.

In the average squad twice as much time is devoted to guard duty as is allocated for sleep. The men average four or five broken hours of sleep in 24 hours.

The proportion of enlisted and drafted men on the front line is comparable to the proportions for the total Army.

Three-fourths of the men have been in the Army less than 18 months, and half of them have been in Korea less than four months.

Three-fourths of the men have been on the MLR less than four months.

Membership in squads changes so rapidly that more than half of the men have been in a squad less than three months.

In half of the squads the average man has been a squad member less than three months. Two-thirds of the squads have members who have been in the squads a month or less. Two-fifths of the squads have "old-timers" who have been in the squad more than six months.

Front-line squads are operating at not more than two-thirds' strength in NCO's.

Over 90 per cent of the squad members had not been wounded since being a member of the present squad.

Approximately half of the front-line riflemen had been promoted since becoming a member of their present squads.

Over 95 per cent of the riflemen had not received company punishment since becoming a member of their present squad.

TRAINING

No squad averaged high scores, and some scored quite low on a written weapons information test.

Over 30 per cent of the men in front-line rifle squads have Army training in addition to Basic, but riflemen do not have an equal opportunity to come in contact with squad-mates who have special training beyond Basic.

The front-line riflemen have had little previous experience in any other combat situation.

ATTITUDES

Over 80 per cent of the squads had an average level of aspiration score which was above the mid-point of the scale.

According to the questionnaire used, in only three squads would the average reaction be to accept rules and orders without question. All of the other squads would tend to evaluate each new situation and decide whether or not to give unquestioning obedience to a rule or order. In no squad was there a strong tendency to flaunt rules and orders.

According to the comments obtained in more than 350 recorded interviews it appears that the average squad member thinks that:

The North Koreans are barbaric and inhuman in treatment of prisoners.

The Chinese are civil in their treatment of prisoners.

The enemy attacks fiercely because he is doped.

The enemy is more patient than the G.I. in setting up an ambush.

The enemy is extremely accurate with mortar fire.

The enemy is dug into impenetrable positions.

The Katusas sleep on guard.

The Katusas have superhuman strength.

The Katusa can see well in the dark.

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